



A SOVIET CITY AND ITS PEOPLE

# A Soviet City

AND ITS PEOPLE

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## *The Author Introduces His Book*

There are different ways of writing about the Soviet Union. Enemies viciously disseminate all sorts of lies and slander about it in order to mislead the trusting reader. Honest and progressive people, regardless of their nationality and political affiliation, write about the country with sincere admiration.

Since the Soviet Union is the first Socialist country in the world, it attracts the interest of millions of people in every corner of the globe. It is no wonder that so many books have been written—for and against—about the USSR, and tens of thousands of articles printed in newspapers and magazines.

No one can remain indifferent to the state where there are no exploiters and exploited, where all the power is concentrated in the hands of the working people, where the land, factories and mills, banks and mines, railways, forests, ships, all the implements and means of production belong not to private owners—to capitalists, but to the people as a whole.

After the late war, when the world became divided into two camps, the anti-imperialist and democratic camp and the imperialist and anti-democratic camp, a great deal of literature depicting the Soviet Union in a distorted light began appearing in countries dominated by monopolists. Therefore it is the task of every honest man to bring to the people of the world the truth about this Socialist land.



The Soviet Union is a vast state with a population of nearly two hundred million, and a territory occupying one-sixth of the globe's land surface. It has large cities with populations of millions, as well as small towns, thousands of villages, and many tiny mountain settlements. . . .

The USSR has 183 cities with a population of more than 50,000. The list is headed by Moscow with its population of millions, and ends with Bokhara, Central Asia, with 50,000 inhabitants. Approximately midway in that list stands Dnieprodzerzhinsk, formerly called Kamenskoye, with 130,000 inhabitants.

It is an average Soviet town and its story will be told in this book.

## A BACKWARD GLANCE

Every country has a river which has played an important part in the history and the life of its people. Many legends and stories have grown up about it and it seems to personify the character of the people dwelling in that land. In the United States it is the Mississippi; in Britain, the Thames; in Germany, the Rhine; in Russia, the broad, calm and beautiful Volga; and in the Ukraine, the ancient Dnieper.

The third largest river in Europe, the Dnieper from time immemorial attracted nomad tribes. Slavs settled on its banks as early as the fifth century; in the middle reaches of the river they founded Kiev, the mother of Russian towns. Across the Dnieper lay a famous ancient trade route. On the rolling Dnieper steppelands, Russians fought the Tatar hordes; and here, for many centuries, the free Cossacks of Zaporozhye defended their independence.

The Dnieper valley is known for its fertile fields, vast herds of cattle and valuable minerals. Since olden times it has been regarded as the principal grain-growing area of the Ukraine. In Soviet times the lower reaches of the Dnieper have become one of the largest industrial centers of the country. Mammoth iron and steel plants have risen along the banks, and the gigantic Dnieper Hydroelectric Station has been erected at the river's rapids.

On the threshold of the Dnieper industrial area is the city

of Dnieprodzerzhinsk, formerly called Kamenskoye.\* It is a typical, small Soviet city of 130,000. A visit to this town is the best way to learn how ordinary Soviet people work, study, rest, take part in public affairs, build factories and mills, put up homes—in other words, how by their day-to-day labor they are creating a new, Communist society.

I arrived in the city of Dnieprodzerzhinsk by steamer along the Dnieper, docking early in the morning at a pier beside the sparkling, white building of the river station. Cranes nearby were loading iron castings into barges; small boats, carrying town people and collective farmers from neighboring villages, were plying up and down the river. One after another trucks drew up to warehouses and workers swiftly unloaded crates and bales. Life was humming at the Dnieprodzerzhinsk port.

The bright sunlit streets of the city were thronged with workers on their way to offices, and a stream of shoppers going in and out of the stores. The shelves of sidewalk booths were piled high with apples, watermelons, and muskmelons, and in some places watermelons lay in heaps on the pavement.

Streetcars clanged and the wind carried the whistling of factory locomotives. . . . Neatly dressed little boys and girls were hurrying to school. . . . Newspaper vendors were busily selling the latest editions of Moscow, Dniepropetrovsk and local newspapers and magazines. . . .

Everything was so different from the old Russian provincial towns. Here were broad, asphalted avenues, monuments on the squares, an imposing theater, and the hum and clatter of construction which were unmistakable signs of our times.

Before beginning my acquaintance with the bustling town as it is today, I wanted to learn more about its history. So I was delighted when, several days later, I met one of Dnieprodzerzhinsk's real old-timers, Vasili Ilyich Borodkin.

"Some sixty years ago," he told me, "there was no town

\*See p. 15 for an explanation of the change of name.—Ed.



here at all. . . . Just a small village called Kamenskoye which got its name from three rocky hills, nearby, where people used to quarry stone." \*

In the spring of 1889 there was great excitement in Kamenskoye. A string of barges laden with huge crates landed near the village, and were unloaded by men who spoke in a foreign tongue. They were Belgians, and the crates contained equipment for an iron and steel mill which foreign capitalists had decided to build there.

Kamenskoye was a good site for the mill because the Donets Basin with its inexhaustible reserves of coal was only a short distance away and the rich Krivoy Rog iron ore was also close at hand. Both raw materials and the finished product could be transported cheaply along the Dnieper; and in Kamenskoye and the neighboring villages, there was plenty of cheap labor.

"Our peasants lived then on the verge of starvation," said Borodkin. They were ruthlessly exploited by the landlords and the wealthy people of the village, and of course they were ready to accept a job at the mill for any sort of wages. Naturally, all this was taken into account by the foreign capitalists who organized the South Russian Dnieper Joint-Stock Company.

"The year 1889 can be considered the date of the founding of our city, or, to be more exact, of the mill settlement. The moment the factory site was chosen, a lot of other buildings sprang up around it. Peasants who decided to work at the mill moved their cottages closer to the plant. The settlement gradually grew and in 1897 it had close to 17,000 inhabitants; seven years later another 2,000 were added, and before the first world war the population of Kamenskoye was over 40,000. . . ."

The mill produced pig iron, steel and rolled metal. There were two 12-hour shifts, and for their exhausting labor at the furnaces and in the rolling mills the workers drew pitifully small wages.

\* The Russian word *kamen* means stone.—Ed.

In those days the settlement was divided into the Upper and Lower Districts. Fine modern homes for the management and the engineering personnel were built in the Upper District. The Lower District consisted of one-story earthen cottages where foremen and the more skilled workers lived. As for the rest of the workers, their homes were in miserable huts on the outskirts of Kamenskoye and in neighboring villages.

The life of a worker was a hard and dreary one. Only a group of Bolsheviks, still numerically small at that time, gave them faith that struggle against the tsarist government and the capitalists would bring them a free and happy life. The ideas spread by the Bolsheviks took firm root among the workers, who participated in strikes under their leadership and were prepared for decisive battles.

In 1917 when the working class of Russia overthrew the rule of the landlords and capitalists and established their own power, the power of the Soviets, all the factories, including those belonging to the South Russian Dnieper Joint-Stock Company in Kamenskoye, were nationalized, which means they became the property of the entire people. The owners of the mill fled and the workers themselves began to run the plant. They were led by workers like Syrovets, Arsenichev and others; and by Bolsheviks, such as Pelin, who had spent long years in exile and before the Revolution had returned to his native Kamenskoye.

"Have you seen the monument on the central square?" Borodkin asked me.

On the first day of my arrival I had come across this monument and had stood for a long time examining it closely. A light, graceful column was mounted on a broad pedestal. The column was crowned by a powerful figure of Prometheus. The chains shackling the hero to the rock were broken and in his outstretched hand he held aloft a flaming torch. At the feet of the liberated Prometheus lay the eagle which but recently had torn at his heart.



"One of the most heroic pages in the history of our town is associated with this monument," Borodkin remarked. "At the height of the Civil War, when interventionists coming from France, Britain, America and other countries had joined with Russian whiteguards in attacking the young Soviet Republic from all sides, the furnaces of the Kamenskoye iron and steel mill were extinguished and the plant was deserted. Like factories everywhere it was idle because it lacked raw materials and fuel for the war had brought in its wake economic breakdown, starvation and epidemics.

"But in all parts of the country the workers and peasants, under the leadership of the Bolshevik Party, rose up to defend the gains of the October Revolution. The workers of Kamenskoye realizing that the republic was in danger went to the idle plant and repaired two armored trains which they sent to the front manned by their finest sons, young Communists. Everyone who could bear arms joined the ranks of the Red Army. There was fierce fighting around the town because it was in this section that the bands of Makhno and Zelyony \* were attacking civilians, plundering, killing, burning homes on the very outskirts of the town. It was the workers' detachments, headed by Communists, who carried on the bitter struggle against these bandits.

"One day the news spread throughout Kamenskoye that in a skirmish with the bandits, Pelin, Syrovets and Arsenichev, the Communists who headed the town government, had been killed. The entire population gathered in the central square to pay their last tribute to these men who had taught them how to fight for a better future and had now given their lives for the people.

"Over the common grave of these Communists the monument with the figure of liberated Prometheus was erected, and

\* Leaders of counter-revolutionary bands operating in the south of Russia during the Civil War.—Ed.



this monument by the architect Sokol became the town's emblem.

"When the enemies of the Soviet Republic were defeated and the workers assumed power in the town, 'ordinary people' moved to the beautiful homes formerly occupied by the shareholders of the South Russian Dnieper Company. The workers became the masters at the mill where they had toiled for so many years to enrich the capitalists. The mill belonged to the people and all its profits were used for the people's needs.

"When Lenin and the Bolshevik Party called on the workers to revive the country, the workers of Kamenskoye decided to bring the idle mill back to life by their own efforts. Day and night they labored to remove the cold metal from the blast furnaces, to rebuild the open-hearth furnaces, to set the rolling mills going once again.

"When the mill was ready, a group of workers went to Moscow to see Felix Dzerzhinsky, the famous statesman and Communist Party leader who was then Chairman of the Supreme Council of National Economy. They told Dzerzhinsky what the Kamenskoye workers had accomplished and asked permission to set the mill going again.

"Dzerzhinsky received them warmly, listened with interest to the account of their work, and they returned home with official permission to reopen the mill.

"As soon as the mill resumed operation the city also began to revive; but it was during the Stalin five-year plans that things really began to change fast. The mill was enlarged. New blast and open-hearth furnaces were built; and a large rolling department and blooming mill were erected—all outfitted with the latest machinery. The former car-building shop of the mill became a large plant in its own right. New enterprises—a cement mill, coke-chemical plant and nitrate fertilizer factory—arose on the banks of the Dnieper, where a large electric station was also built.

"In 1936 the Central Executive Committee of the USSR changed the name of Kamenskoye to Dnieprodzerzhinsk, in honor of Felix Dzerzhinsky who had been closely associated with the revival of the town's industry. Together with the development of industry came the transformation of Dnieprodzerzhinsk. It was no longer a mill settlement, but a modern Soviet city. It was no longer divided into the Upper and Lower Districts. These very names disappeared. The town was improved; broad, asphalted thoroughfares were laid out and trees and shrubs adorned its streets.

"The old hovels where workers used to live were torn down and replaced by two-, three- and four-story modern homes. Many schools were opened, as well as higher educational institutions, clubs and movie houses. . . . The people of Dnieprodzerzhinsk led a happy, increasingly prosperous life, filled with the satisfaction of genuine achievement."

Then came the war.

Today if you look closely you can see, amid the houses, empty lots overgrown with weeds; behind neat painted fences, lie piles of broken brick and twisted iron. . . . At the iron and steel mill I came upon shapeless metal parts which seemed to have been crushed by the barbarous hand of some monster.

"Traces of the beast," was the way Borodkin described it. "They are becoming fewer and fewer with each passing day. But even when they have disappeared entirely, no one in the town will ever forget the horrible days of the German occupation. The Germans captured the city in August of 1941, just two months and one day after the war began.

"Not all of our people succeeded in evacuating to the East. Many of them remained in the town. But Dnieprodzerzhinsk was like a dead city. There was not a soul on the streets and the windows were tightly shuttered.

"To terrorize the population, the Germans drove 200 inhabitants from their homes on Syrovets Street—old folks, women



and children—and shot them right in front of their fellow-townsmen. They killed another 200 people in the same way in the village of Tritutnoye, one of the town's suburbs. They built gallows on the central square and hanged several of the most respected citizens of Dnieprodzerzhinsk.

"Next they threw a cordon around Pelin Street and blew up the Prometheus monument. They hated that image of a free man who burst his bonds and cast the eagle down at his feet. The eagle, you remember, was the emblem of Nazi Germany.

"The Germans announced that hereafter Dnieprodzerzhinsk would be known by its old name, Kàmenskoye, and that all the factories and mills would be privately owned. The workers had to report at once to the new owners. Death was the penalty for failing to comply with this order.

"The Hitlerites wanted to turn back the clock of history. But they did not succeed.

"The town committee of the Communist Party was functioning underground. Uniting around itself all patriots, it organized determined resistance to the invaders.

"The Germans were very anxious to launch the cement mill, because cement was urgently needed for building fortifications. But the workers of the mill sabotaged the resumption of production in every way possible. They cut up transmission belts or hid them. They damaged repaired units so that they had to be overhauled several times. The main motor burned out for some 'unknown reason,' and the mill was at a standstill for three months.

"The Hitlerites encountered similar resistance at the iron and steel mill. Workers of the tool shop hid all the tools, sheet rubber, rubber hose and belts. They buried about four tons of brass.

"Mechanic Stanovoi removed the bolts from the girders of the crane, so that the crane caved in and bent the girders. Repairing the water mains at the Seventh and Eighth open-hearth



furnaces took a whole year, but even then they did not function long. The workers soon managed to have them break.

"Steelmakers were deliberately melting steel by 'rule of thumb' instead of according to formula. They claimed not to know any other way. As a result, most of the output was wasted. And in the rolling mill department the main motor was in the process of being repaired for over a year.

"To any observer it seemed as though the workers were doing their jobs diligently. They placed the motor out in the open and worked in every kind of weather, even when it rained or snowed. But after the motor was finally ready and the first tests were made, it went out of commission because electricians deliberately tested it while it was not completely dry.

"The motor was again repaired and sent to the shop. But when it was being unloaded, it 'accidentally' hit against the furnace and again went out of commission.

"To find the persons guilty of all these accidents was extremely difficult because it was not isolated individuals sabotaging the orders of the Germans. It was the entire personnel of the mill.

"Only on the 547th day of their stay in Dnieprodzerzhinsk did the Germans succeed in getting the first rolled metal, and on the 629th day, the first steel. During their entire occupation the Hitlerites were able to obtain only as much steel as the mill produced in five days before the war. And they got still less of rolled metal—only as much as was produced in 12 hours in pre-war days."

The Hitlerites were furious, and on the least suspicion they arrested Soviet people, tortured and killed them in Gestapo dungeons. When the Germans announced mobilization of the youth, no one was willing to report for hard labor in Germany, so the Hitlerites organized real manhunts. All young people who were caught were herded into trains, under guard, and shipped off to the West.

The town's underground committee of the Communist Party, determined to prevent this mobilization, helped young men and women to hide, and organized raids on trains to free the prisoners.

Not far from Dnieprodzerzhinsk was a camp for Soviet prisoners of war. Every day several hundred people died there from disease and exhaustion. Underground workers organized the escape of prisoners, supplied them with clothing and documents, and shipped them to the east bank of the Dnieper. In every way possible the townspeople tried to make the life of their imprisoned compatriots more bearable. There was always a crowd of women at the barbed-wire fence of the camp, bringing food for the prisoners, even when it meant sharing their very last morsel.

But finally the Soviet Army liberated the town from the fascists and Dnieprodzerzhinsk again became Soviet. As soon as the Germans were driven out, the workers returned to their shops; but before starting production, they had to rebuild almost from scratch.

During their retreat the Germans blew up blast furnaces, open-hearth furnaces and rolling mills. In some of the shops they blew up every pillar, every crane girder. The factories and mills were reduced to heaps of rubble and twisted metal. . . . Tremendous effort was required to bring the shops back to life, but the people performed veritable miracles of unselfish labor, perseverance and resourcefulness.

The factories were short of fuel. So the workers hunted up the residue of the coke-chemical plant and made use of it. There was no electric power. There were no cranes, and heavy machines had to be lifted by hand. The workers ran their lathes by hand. But the walls of shops rose at an incredible speed, and equally fast was the restoration of machines and equipment.

It had taken the Germans 629 days to get the first steel; Soviet workers produced the first steel on the 26th day after



their town was recaptured. The Germans had succeeded in rolling metal at the Dzerzhinsky Mill only after 547 days. Exactly 500 days less—47 days—was needed after liberation. . . . Such were the results of free labor!

Homes wrecked by the Germans were rebuilt and schools reopened. Secondary and higher educational institutions were re-established. Lights blazed again in the movie houses and the town's drama theater. The music of orchestras resounded once more in the parks. . . . Every morning the printshop was issuing the local paper in thousands of copies.

All factories resumed production. Tramcars were running again on the streets. Construction of new buildings proceeded rapidly. . . .

On a bright spring day, May 1, a replica of the monument which had been destroyed by the Germans was unveiled at a special ceremony on the central square. Now once again Prometheus holds aloft the torch of truth and freedom, and the crushed eagle lies at his feet.

The city has resumed its pre-war appearance, and become even better, and more beloved by its inhabitants.



# THE CITY SOVIET

A fine three-story building with a red flag flying over it stands on the main square of Dnieprodzerzhinsk. During demonstrations on national holidays, marchers file past it. On weekdays its doors are always open and there is a constant stream of people going in and out.

No other institution in the town is visited by so many people as the one located in this white-stone mansion. It is the city Soviet of Working People's Deputies.

The highest state authority in the Soviet Union is the Supreme Soviet of the USSR. Each Union republic—and there are 16 of them—has its own Supreme Soviet. Supreme Soviets are also elected in every autonomous republic. Then, each town, each district, and each village, has its Soviet of Working People's Deputies, which is elected democratically, and which directs the entire life of a town. In a city like Dnieprodzerzhinsk, the Soviet approves the budget, checks on the work of government organizations, insures the maintenance of order, the observance of the laws, and protects the rights of citizens. It handles problems pertaining to education, public health, local industry, city trade and social welfare. It cares for the cleanliness and improvement of the town, the efficient working of public utilities, and housing construction. Even this list does not cover all the duties and activities of a City Soviet.

It is the real manager of the city, but a collective manager, elected by the entire people.

Once every two years the people elect the Town and Village Soviets, or, as they are called in the USSR, the local organs of power. A town is divided into electoral districts, each of which sends one deputy to the Soviet.

Workers and office employees, Party, trade union and other organizations of the community hold meetings and nominate those whom they wish to have represent them in the Soviet. All candidates, if they gave their consent to run for office, are entered on the ballot.

Any Soviet citizen who has reached the age of 18, regardless of social origin and position, sex, nationality, race, education, religious or political views, can be elected a deputy to a local Soviet. Only the insane, and criminals who have been deprived of their electoral rights by a court of law, are disfranchised.

The Soviet electoral system provides for direct elections, with every voter casting his ballot directly for the deputy he chooses. There are no special electors or representatives to whom the voter delegates his powers.

At the polls the voter enters a private booth where he remains alone while marking his ballot. If he wishes, he can cross out the name of any candidate who is unsatisfactory to him. Upon leaving the booth he drops the ballot into a sealed box.

Both Communists and non-Party people run for office together on a single slate. Communist Party organizations, and members of the Party, nominate both Party members and citizens who do not belong to the Party; and non-party organizations such as trade unions and cooperatives nominate not only men and women who are not affiliated with the Party, but also Communists.

Elections are always held in an atmosphere of friendliness and there is active participation on the part of all the people. The turnout at elections is always extremely high, for the Soviet people have a sense of responsibility toward their civic duty.

During the most recent elections to the Soviet of Working



People's Deputies in Dneprodzerzhinsk, 70,682 inhabitants had the right to vote. Ballots were cast by 70,679. Only three voters in the entire city did not go to the polls.

To whom have the citizens of Dneprodzerzhinsk intrusted the administration of their city? Who are the "city fathers"?

Suppose we attend a regular session of the Soviet of Dneprodzerzhinsk. In a bright and spacious hall sit 282 deputies: men and women, old and young, Communists and non-Party people. There are 172 men and 110 women; 153 are members of the Communist Party and 129 are not Party members. The Communist Party, the advanced section of the working class, through its members elected to various Soviet community organizations, gives political guidance to the country.

The most varied professions are represented in the Soviet. One hundred and fifty of the deputies are workers in Dneprodzerzhinsk factories and mills. They constitute the largest group, and this is not surprising since Dneprodzerzhinsk is an industrial town.

The deputies also include fifty men and women who hold leading positions in government, Communist Party and community organizations of the town and the district. Eleven deputies are heads of the Communist Party and trade union organizations in shops and smaller institutions. Seventeen are directors and shop superintendents in factories. Five are in charge of higher schools, hospitals and theaters. Three are at the head of trading establishments; and among the rest are three workers in the judiciary system, two engineers, three technicians, an agronomist, eleven physicians and nurses, seven teachers, two scientists, an artist, officers of the Soviet Army, bookkeepers and two housewives.

A mere enumeration of the vocations of the deputies is sufficient to show that power in the town belongs to ordinary people engaged in various fields of activity. The people themselves are masters of their destiny.



An examination of the distribution of deputies by nationality once again shows that Soviet democracy is truly all-embracing. Dneprodzerzhinsk is located in the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic; hence, Ukrainians predominate among the deputies, and have 181 legislators. There are also 82 Russians, 10 Belorussians, five Jews, one Lett, a Mordvinian, a Greek and a Montenegrin, or a total of 101 deputies.

Could there be any more convincing proof of the true friendship among peoples in the Soviet land than the fact that the local authority in even so small a city as Dneprodzerzhinsk, includes representatives of eight nationalities?

Many of the deputies wear the ribbons of government decorations. One hundred and eighty-seven of them have been awarded Orders or medals for exploits on the field of battle or for heroic labor. One hundred and thirty fought during the war in the ranks of the Soviet Army or in guerilla detachments. The Gold Star of Hero of the Soviet Union shines on the tunics of three deputies. And among the members of the Dneprodzerzhinsk City Soviet there is a deputy to the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and a deputy to the Supreme Soviet of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic.

The deputies elect from their midst a group of eleven who are charged with the day-to-day guidance of the town's affairs. This is the Executive Committee: a chairman (mayor), two vice-chairmen, the chairman of the Town Planning Commission, the heads of the Board of Education, Board of Health, Public Utilities Department, Finance Department and several other leading executives. Between sessions of the Soviet, the Executive Committee issues regulations which all persons of the town must obey; and it discusses all urgent questions connected with the development of public utilities and cultural institutions.

Semyon Sergeevich Smirnov, chairman of Dneprodzerzhinsk's Executive Committee, has been nicknamed "Omnipresent." One minute he is at the construction site of a new

apartment house; and the next he is talking to the manager of the tramcar depot. The day has scarcely begun, before he has managed to visit one of the hospitals, to step into a cooperative shoe repair shop, to have a chat with the youngsters in a kindergarten and find out how they liked their breakfast.

There he stands beside some workers, watching how they are asphaltting a strip of pavement. A few minutes later he may be seen talking to a gardener, and shortly afterward he is on his way to his office to receive visitors.

People come to consult the Executive Committee chairman on every sort of question. Architect Brusov, a deputy to the Soviet, brings the general plan for enlarging Dneprodzerzhinsk. The project is being sent for approval to the Council of Ministers of the Ukrainian Republic, and the mayor, who has considered this problem in detail many times, has to affix his signature to the bulky document.

Vasili Sofyanchuk, a repatriate who lived in France for many years and has now returned to Soviet Ukraine, comes to ask for living quarters for his large family—a wife and four children. He had been given temporary quarters and promised a cottage of his own. He is employed at the coke-chemical plant as a mechanic. Representatives of the Soviet keep in touch with him and he is well taken care of. What brings him to the mayor now is the question of whether he should take a loan offered him by the plant management and build his own home, or wait for one that has been promised to him by the Soviet. After contacting the Housing Department by phone, Smirnov tells the new resident of Dneprodzerzhinsk that he will be able to move into a new home within six weeks.

The reception of visitors is interrupted for a time when the secretary brings in a batch of mail. There is a letter from another repatriate, who had stayed temporarily in Dneprodzerzhinsk and then moved to Dniepropetrovsk. He felt he ought to write a letter thanking his new friends for the warm reception he had



been given in the first Soviet town he visited. Here is his letter:

"I want to begin by apologizing for not dropping in to say goodbye before we left and thanking you for everything you did for us, for me particularly.

"I have been staying here with my mother for over a week. The problem of living quarters is all settled and now I am about to start work. Within two or three days I expect to be working again for the good of the Homeland and my old mother.

"I recall with warm feelings Dnieprodzerzhinsk, the cement mill where I worked for a short time, and you, that is, everything which formed my first impressions of my newly acquired Homeland. True, at first the going was a bit difficult, but the joyous feeling of being in one's own country eased all the hardships and filled me with new hope, faith and love.

"You are a splendid comrade and for me you were a part of the Homeland about which I would like to say so many things. But I do not wish to bother you with reading a long letter and for this reason I am cutting it short.

"From the bottom of my heart I wish you a long and happy life and ask you to accept my gratitude, the gratitude of a Russian, a Soviet citizen.

"N. I. Biyeiko"

Next Smirnov read another letter. It was sent because of an article about the work of the Dnieprodzerzhinsk Soviet which had appeared in *Izvestia*. A journalist had made a careful study of the activities of the local Soviet and had written an article entitled: "Our Own Home." The article was read by Dr. Konstantin Bebeshein and he wrote the following letter:

"It was with great pleasure that I read in *Izvestia* an article by the newspaper's correspondent entitled 'Our Own Home.' Your members consist of people who have been brought up by Comrades Lenin and Stalin during the thirty years of the Soviet system. The author of the article rightly called the Dnieprodzerzhinsk Soviet 'Our Own Home,' where the working people can find fatherly concern for their daily needs.



"It was particularly gratifying to me also because during the trying years of the Civil War (1917-1920) I was a professor at Yekaterinslav (now Dniepropetrovsk\*) University, near your town.

"Allow me to tell you, esteemed comrades, that your work is a source of great joy and gratification to all those who wish Soviet people a happy life.

"Greetings,

"Konstantin Bebeshin, M. D."

After reading the mail, the chairman of the Soviet resumed the reception of visitors. Plain people flocked to the mayor's office, and he made it a point to speak with each one, offer advice or encouragement, extend help and find out what problems concerned the people most, and to what the Soviet should devote special attention. No wonder the mayor is kept busy at his job from morning till night.

Mayor Semyon Sergeyeovich Smirnov was born forty-seven years ago in the family of a worker in the railway yards. His parents were poor and could not afford to give him an education. After two years of schooling, the boy was forced to go to work in order to help his father feed the family. At first he sold newspapers, then he became an apprentice in the railway shops and finally worked as a lathe operator.

When the Russian workers, together with the peasants, overthrew the rule of landlords and capitalists, Smirnov was only sixteen years old. But he understood that the Soviet system had brought freedom to the people; so as a volunteer he joined the Red Army to help defend the country against foreign invaders. It was in the Red Army that Smirnov became acquainted with Communist ideas. He learned then that the Communists were fighting for the building of a society where there would be no rich and poor, no exploiters and exploited, a society where all the mills and factories, the fields and forests and minerals in the earth would no longer be owned by private individuals, but

\*Named after the late Ukrainian President Grigori Petrovsky.—Ed.

would become the property of the entire people.

He wanted to become an active participant in the building of this society so he joined the Communist Party. Ever since the Civil War ended and Smirnov changed from an army uniform to civilian clothes, he has been working among the people.

For several years he was with the food workers' trade union; next he studied at the Leningrad Communist University, from which he was graduated with honors; then he directed Party organizations at mines, railways and construction sites.

More than twelve years ago he settled in Dnieprodzerzhinsk, and before the recent war he worked in the town committee of the Communist Party. He came to be well-known and highly respected by the townspeople.

When the front drew near to Dnieprodzerzhinsk, Smirnov joined the ranks of the Soviet Army. But even there he did not lose touch with the people in Ukrainian towns. He was assigned the task of conducting propaganda among the population in German-occupied territory. He wrote impassioned leaflets addressed to his compatriots who were suffering under the Germans. These leaflets were dropped from airplanes. He maintained contact with the population through messengers who, at the risk of their lives, made their way behind the enemy lines.

On October 25, 1943, the town of Dnieprodzerzhinsk was freed from the German invaders. Everyone flocked into the streets to greet their liberators, the men of the Soviet Army, and among them was Captain Semyon Sergeyeovich Smirnov. He was one of the first to return, and with his customary energy gave leadership to the restoration of the war-wrecked town.

The town's people expressed their confidence in Smirnov by electing him a deputy to the City Soviet. Later he was chosen to be the town's mayor; and when the Ukrainian Republic celebrated its thirtieth anniversary, Semyon Sergeyeovich Smirnov was awarded the Order of the Badge of Honor by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR.



## EVERYBODY WORKS

If you climb the hill near Romankovo village, you are rewarded by a splendid view of Dnieprodzerzhinsk. Rows of houses stand out in the midst of trees and shrubs. Parks and gardens are solid patches of green. To the left is the Dnieper, like a blue ribbon drawn by a skilled draftsman. And extending along its right bank as far as the eye can see is a line of industrial plants. . . .

There are the elevators of the cement mill and the towering blast furnaces. One can discern the outlines of the ore concentration plant. Next to the steel mill is the car-building works. Beyond is the coke-chemical plant and still farther in the distance is the nitrate-fertilizer works.

The town produces not only pig iron, steel and rolled metal, coke, cement, railway cars and fertilizers, but it has quite a number of small plants which turn out bricks, carts, and roofing tile. There are also many shops which make clothing and footwear, repair watches and radio sets. . . .

You will not find a single person unemployed in Dnieprodzerzhinsk. There is a job for everyone; but you will not find any man hiring others to work and make profits for him, nor will you find a single banker, industrialist or landlord. In this town, as elsewhere throughout the Soviet Union, everyone works only for himself and for the state which he owns.

Labor is the keystone of life for each adult inhabitant of Dnieprodzerzhinsk.



Someone may ask what distinguishes their labor from the labor of people who live in capitalist countries? Aren't the people of Dnieprodzerzhinsk working to earn a living, just as people do throughout the rest of the world?

Of course, everyone works because he has to earn the means to buy food, clothing and the other necessities of life for himself and his family. But in capitalist countries, wages are the sole reason impelling an ordinary man to work; labor is an onerous but inescapable burden.

In the Soviet Union there are additional motives which have produced among all citizens a new attitude toward labor.

"People in our country," said Joseph Stalin, "do not work for exploiters, for the enrichment of parasites, but for themselves, for their own class, for their own, Soviet society, where power is wielded by the best members of the working class. That is why labor in our country has social significance, and is a matter of honor and glory. Under capitalism labor bears a private and personal character. You have produced more—well, then, receive more, and live as best you can. Nobody knows you, or wants to know you. You work for the capitalists, you enrich them? Well, what do you expect? That is why they hired you, so that you should enrich the exploiters. If you do not agree with that, join the ranks of the unemployed and get along as best you can—'we shall find others who are more tractable.' That is why people's labor is not valued very highly under capitalism. . . . But things are different under the Soviet system. Here the working man is held in esteem. Here he works not for the exploiters, but for himself, for his class, for society. Here the working man cannot feel neglected and alone. On the contrary, the man who works feels himself a free citizen of his country, a public figure, in a way. And if he works well and gives society his best—he is a hero of labor, and is covered with glory."

Every Soviet citizen understands that the more he produces, the richer his state, his society, his people become. And this

means that he himself will live better and in greater security. Profits in the USSR are not turned over to private owners, as is the case in the capitalist countries, but are used to benefit the collective owner of all wealth, the people.

That is why labor is no longer viewed by Soviet people as a personal matter. It is a matter of concern for society as a whole; and the best workers are awarded the highest decorations, and elected to positions of importance. Articles and stories, and sometimes books, are written about them. Their portraits are displayed prominently and their names are entered on public honor rolls. Any of their proposals for improving production, perfecting technology or rationalizing labor processes are carefully studied and applied.

All this gives the working man great moral satisfaction. The work of ordinary people acquires profound meaning, becomes creative. A working man has a chance to use his individual gifts and abilities, just as a writer, musician, artist or scientist.

Early each morning, tens of thousands of Dnieprodzerzhinsk inhabitants take their places in the factories and workshops, at store counters, behind the wheels of automobiles, in street cars, school auditoriums and at desks in various offices. . . . For twenty-four hours a day pig iron is produced in blast furnaces, steel is melted in open-hearth furnaces, freight cars are turned out at the car-building works. Railwaymen deliver trainloads of supplies—ventilators, cranes, electrical equipment—for the city's various enterprises.

Trains leave Dnieprodzerzhinsk with such products as iron for the shipbuilding yards in Nikolayev, metal tires for Tashkent, wheel rims for Gorky.

Operating in the city are a whole string of producers' cooperatives, a clothing factory, milk canning factory, two large mechanized bakeries and sixty-four different kinds of service shops. The local stores handle their output, which includes kitchen ware and shoes, aluminum dishes and underwear, nails and



ready-made suits, roofing and household articles. . . .

"Today it is very difficult to picture how our town looked in the old, pre-Soviet days" said Pavel Sergeyevich Kochetkov, a Dnieprodzerzhinsk old-timer and experienced steelmaker, who moved here in the days when the town was a small settlement and the mill belonged to the South Russian Dnieper Joint-Stock Company.

"At five in the morning the siren would screech. I would get up from my bed in a poor, squalid hut, grab something to eat and hurry to the street. All around there were miserable huts just like mine, where families were crowded together so that children and adults slept in a row on the floor. . . . I would walk along the street depressed and in a bad mood. . . . In those days the mill worked not three, but two shifts, and this meant that everyone had to work twelve hours a day.

"After standing for twelve hours straight at a hot furnace, you were so tired you could scarcely drag yourself home. You would be all in by the time you reached home and you wanted to get to bed as soon as possible. But there were always chores to be done around the house. You had to chop firewood or do something else. . . . At last you just dropped off to sleep and lay there dead to the world until dawn, when the siren would yank you out of bed again.

"There was seldom time for reading a book, going to the theater or a movie, or even just taking a walk in the park or a ride on the Dnieper.

"And what was it all for? Just to keep from starving, and so your boss could enjoy all the good things of life.

"The better you worked, the sooner you were sure to lose your health. And no one even said 'thank you' for it.

"I had no children, but whenever I met some boy, a worker's son, my heart would ache when I looked at him. I would say to myself: 'What does life have in store for you? Will you have to suffer as I do? Will you be given a chance to go to the gym-

nasium or university? No; like me, you will begin by having to push a cart with ore or coal from morning till night, and then perhaps someone will have pity on you and transfer you to the shop. . . . You will become third helper, then second, then first helper. . . . You'll be doing well if perhaps in ten or twelve years you become a steel melter and work independently.'

"I worked at the mill for nearly fifteen years before I became a steel melter. The veteran workers guarded their trade secrets closely. They didn't even give anyone a chance to look into the peephole of the furnace in order to learn how to gauge the temperature by the color of the metal. It was not to their advantage to have other people learn the trade. They reasoned that if a new worker made good, they might lose their job.

"I hated the foreman, hated the work which was so exhausting and senseless, hated the town where I lived and where I saw nothing but poverty and injustice everywhere.

"And now? Now things are entirely different. If you work well, you are respected. Glory and honor come your way. Take me, for example. I have been awarded the Order of Lenin. In Moscow the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR issued a decree decorating the finest men and women of our Ukrainian republic on the occasion of its 30th anniversary. And my name is on that list. It stands next to statesmen, scientists, writers, physicians, collective farmers and other workers. My labor is certainly worth something if it has been so highly appraised in Moscow. And I have been given the highest award, the Order of Lenin. What did I get it for? Only for my honest labor.

"The newspapers wrote about me many times, and printed photographs of me. It turns out that people are interested to know that there is a steelmaker named Pavel Sergeyevich Kochetkov, that he knows how to make steel well, and that because of this he is honored by the whole country.

"Today you do not have to spend many years to become a



steel melter or blast furnace operator. No one hides the secrets of the trade. On the contrary, everyone shares them willingly. In trade schools the young people are taught the most delicate and intricate jobs. It took me nearly fifteen years to become a steel melter; but in our first open-hearth department there is a steel melter named Eduard Zalevsky, who is only nineteen years old. . . . The blast furnace department has an operator Mikhail Kolodka, an operator, mind you, and he was born only eighteen years ago.

"Nowadays, when I look at our young boys, I have no gloomy thoughts about their futures. I know they will all have a chance to study, in schools and universities. My friend Frol Trushin has four sons. Three of them are engineers and one is a technician, who works in our shop and is in charge of the gas supply.

"I now work not twelve, but eight hours a day, and so do all the other workers. I go to the theater, read newspapers and books, spend my vacations at the finest health resorts. I love our town; it has become so neat and beautiful.

"That is why I put my heart into the job, I put 'fire' into my work, as the saying goes. I want to produce more, to finish the melt ahead of schedule, faster than other steel melters do. I am competing with them.

"And because of all this, work does not age me, does not undermine my health. On the contrary, it seems as though I were getting younger."

What Pavel Kochetkov told me expresses the thoughts of all Dnieprodzerzhinsk workers. Their labor, in which they invest so much brain, initiative, heart and "fire," is so productive because they themselves benefit by it.

Dnieprodzerzhinsk is a small city, but not so small that I can describe every one of its enterprises. I will deal with only one of them, the Dzerzhinsky Iron and Steel Mill, which is the

largest. Its activity is representative of the life of the entire community.

The old mill was thoroughly reconstructed and enlarged during the Stalin five-year plans, and before the war it produced as much pig iron as all of Poland. Before the war it was called the "pearl of Southern Metallurgy." Although the Germans completely destroyed the mill, production of pig iron, steel and rolled metal was resumed in an incredibly short time. True, not all the shops and units have been restored yet, but those now in operation are producing more than before the war.

The workers and engineers of the plant decided to complete the first post-war five-year plan in four years instead of five. They have shown great initiative, resourcefulness and energy, and in the first half of 1948 had already left the pre-war figures far behind.

A modern Soviet plant is a huge and complex industrial body. It demands able guidance, thorough knowledge of technology, fine business management and constant perfection of production processes. But a modern Soviet plant is also a collective of human beings bound by unity of aim and interests. At the head of a plant stands a director, who is vested with sole authority, and his closest associates: the chief engineer, commercial director, financial assistant, chief steel melter, chief mechanic, etc.

All workers in the plant—in the various shops, the office, the restaurant, the clinic, etc.—belong to the same union, the union of the industry. Membership, as in all unions in the USSR, is entirely voluntary; but the benefits are so obvious that it needs only an explanation of the union's functions to persuade new workers to join. There are no initiation fees, and dues are set at one per cent of wages.

A contract is signed every year between the Trade Union Committee of the plant and the management. Certain matters that would be part of contract negotiations in other countries are,



in the Soviet Union, part of the nation's laws enforced throughout the entire country: for instance, the right to vacation with full pay; the length of the working day; sickness and old age benefits; maternity leave; equality of pay for men and women. These points are included in a contract without need for negotiation.

A draft of a contract is drawn up by the Trade Union Committee of the plant and submitted to a general meeting of all the workers. There it is discussed, changes are suggested, and the final draft is submitted to the management. The union's part of the agreement is a pledge to fulfill the production schedule that has been assigned to the plant under the plan of the supervising Ministry. The management agrees on rates of pay over and above the basic wage scales, working conditions, special safety measures, maintenance of recreational and cultural facilities, building of homes for the workers.

Trade union members in a plant are divided into groups of no more than twenty and each group has an organizer, a social insurance delegate, and a labor production delegate whose function is to help a worker increase his efficiency and thereby increase the production of the plant—as well as the worker's own income.

The plant has a workers' Grievance Committee which meets every day to hear complaints and take up with the management these problems, or any failure to fulfill the contract. There have been occasions, in some plants, when workers have called a stoppage because certain conditions had not been fulfilled, or promised improvements had not been made. But this happens very seldom, because if a manager has been so lax in the administration of his plant that workers must resort to such drastic measures, that manager is subject to thorough investigation by the Ministry under which his plant functions, and the chances are he will be removed for inefficiency.

There is an Appraisal and Conflict Committee, composed of

an equal number of workers and representatives of management; and their meetings, held after working hours, are open to all workers. Complaints of all sorts are brought here to be discussed and settled. In case of a disagreement, the matter is carried to higher committees, and may even be taken to court. The national trade union organization has a legal department (which advises in the framing of labor laws); large factories employ a lawyer full time; and smaller plants have the part-time services of a lawyer. Any worker who needs expert legal advice in connection with his job, or on a personal matter, can get such service free.

Only 20 per cent of union dues may be spent for administrative expenses. The rest must be spent for cultural activities, education, recreation projects, and for loans or gifts needed by individual workers. The trade union also has sole administration of the social insurance fund to which management pays a regular percentage of the total payroll. The workers themselves pay nothing to this fund.

While a director is responsible to the state for the successful operation of the enterprise, moral responsibility to the people is shared with him by everyone who works there. Rightly, they regard themselves as "the collective owner." That is why the administration and the entire personnel of the plant work together harmoniously. While the mill management and its engineering staff work out the technical problems of production and all the schedules, etc., the workers not only follow all these instructions, but also apply their experience and creative abilities to improving the work.

The workers hold production conferences with the shop management, where they discuss the best methods of increasing the productivity of labor. They advance their counterplans in regard to time schedules, or the saving of raw materials, fuel, electric power, etc. The management carefully studies the advice of the workers and changes plans accordingly. Workers and engineers, united in groups of inventors and rationalizers, develop



various improvements in production. They study and adopt the experience of the best Stakhanovites, the workers who through innovations have succeeded in achieving high labor productivity.

Careful organization in every department, planned and well-coordinated work, plus the creative efforts of the entire personnel, are what enabled the Dzerzhinsky Iron and Steel Mill in 1948 to exceed its pre-war level despite the destruction wrought by the Germans.

Steel workers in the open-hearth department equalled the pace of the blast furnace operators. The workers set themselves the goal of exceeding the plan for 1948.

Steel melter Grigori Matolinets announced that he considered it possible to complete a melt in less than the customary eight hours. Many of the old timers were sceptical but he was given a chance to prove his theory.

Dozens of workers remained in the shop after their shift was over to watch how Grigori Matolinets would produce an "accelerated melt." He did it in six and a half hours instead of eight, which was a great achievement. Of course, not every melt can be finished in so short a time, but it is always possible to trim down the usual eight hours.

"Accelerated melts" would become the rule if other steel workers learned how to handle them, reasoned Grigori Matolinets. So he asked: "Who wants me to teach them?"

Many responded, and Matolinets organized classes where he taught the art of fast steel melting to Mikhail Milentyev, Fyodor Venzhega, Avraam Maneilo and others. After assimilating the experience of Grigori Matolinets, they even improved on the performance of their teacher.

Mikhail Milentyev organized his own Stakhanov classes, enlisting not only steel melters, but also those who feed the gas and pour the finished metal. His students included all workers engaged in producing and pouring steel.

This is how "accelerated melts" ceased to be a special

achievement of individuals and became the rule. Instead of the planned 5.36 tons, the open-hearth shop began to produce 6.5 tons of steel per square meter of furnace bottom. It has won the reputation of being the best steel-melting department in the Soviet Union and has been presented with the competitive Red Banner of the Council of Ministers of the USSR which is awarded for labor distinction.

Thus, an increase in labor productivity over and above plan was attained not on orders from above, not by compulsion, but on the initiative of the workers themselves, who are vitally interested in the development of industry in the Soviet Union.

Every production achievement of the workers is watched closely by the entire town. When Grigori Matolinets was blazing new trails in steel making it was known not only at the mill, but all Dnieprodzerzhinsk learned of his venture. Newspapers wrote about it. It was discussed at meetings and family dinner tables. . . . Each achievement—the record set by Matolinets, the presentation of the banner to the steel-melting shop, the launching of a new department at the car-building works—was regarded by the town as a great event, because labor is the foundation of life for the people of Dnieprodzerzhinsk, creative, meaningful, socially useful labor.

Manual labor in Soviet enterprises is beginning to differ less and less from mental labor. A high degree of mechanization does not reduce the worker to an automaton. On the contrary, it enables him to combine physical skill with technical knowledge. A worker applies his creative ideas to the processes of production. He holds a place of honor in the entire scheme of industrial production, and for this he has to have a thorough knowledge of new machinery and methods, and learn to master them.

So we find workers poring over textbooks, studying manuals. An unskilled laborer wants to become a mechanic or blast furnace operator. A steel melter expects to be a foreman, and a foreman seeks to become an engineer.



## GOING TO SCHOOL

School No. 1 is located next to the building of the City Soviet. Early in the morning Sofia Ivanovna Pitkevich, the school principal, makes a tour of all the classrooms and laboratories to see whether everything is ready for the new day's studies.

Years ago she herself attended school in this very same building (at that time it was called a gymnasium). After becoming a teacher, she returned to her Alma Mater. Her pupils often ask Sofia Ivanovna to tell them how children in this town studied in olden times, and she likes to do this because she wants the young generation to appreciate fully how concerned the Soviet state is with making education available to all children.

In old Russia, provincial towns had one or two secondary schools, or gymnasiums, as they were called then. As a rule, they were attended by children of wealthy parents—members of the nobility, industrialists, big merchants, professionals, and government officials. Children of ordinary workers could not attend a gymnasium. Even if they were formally not barred, it was too difficult for them to qualify for admission. During the eight years of study tuition fees were high and beyond the reach of a worker. At best, he could place his boy or girl in a four-grade school, which usually was all the education a worker's child received.

On graduating from a gymnasium, the children of well-to-do parents would go to the capital or to large regional centers which had higher educational institutions. People in workers' settle-

ments such as Kamenskoye knew of universities only by hearsay. For workers' children a higher education was an unattainable dream.

At the Dnieprodzerzhinsk school where Sofia Pitkevich is principal, she is well acquainted with each of her pupils. That girl's father is a worker in the machine shop. And that vivacious little creature is the daughter of a bookkeeper in the planning department of the car-building works. The principal greets a pupil of the ninth grade. Her mother is a renowned Stakhanovite of the power department at the steel mill. Next to her is the daughter of an engineer in the coke-chemical plant. . . .

Dnieprodzerzhinsk is not only a town of factories and mills, it is also a town of schools. Every fifth inhabitant is attending some educational institution. There are twenty-five schools: five elementary, nine junior secondary and eleven secondary schools. These latter correspond to American Junior and Senior High Schools. As in the rest of the Soviet Union, education is universal and compulsory.

The government has established free tuition in all elementary and junior secondary (seven-grade) schools. In secondary schools, beginning with the eighth grade, a small tuition fee is charged except to the children of servicemen, war invalids or soldiers killed in the war, or those whose parents have a small income.

Every day 15,000 boys and girls fill the classrooms of the town's twenty-five schools. Five hundred and seventy-six teachers carry on instruction in accordance with a general school program which includes the native language, literature, history, mathematics, physics, geography, natural science, chemistry, foreign languages and other subjects.

The schools are today functioning normally and it is difficult to imagine that a few years ago many of them were mere heaps of rubble. The German invaders were especially vicious



in their destruction of schools. They blew up school buildings and burned the furniture and textbooks.

While the war was still at its height, the Communist Party called for the speedy restoration of schools in the areas liberated from the Germans. It was pointed out that rehabilitation of schools and resumption of studies were of greatest national importance. As soon as the Germans were driven from Dnieprodzerzhinsk, rebuilding of schools started immediately. The pupils did not have to sit very long at the makeshift desks made of piles of bricks. The Communist Party of Dnieprodzerzhinsk and the City Soviet launched an energetic campaign to provide the schools with everything they needed. Though factories and mills were busy restoring the war damage, they became patrons of the schools, and sent workmen, supplied building materials and fuel, and in every way helped in the job of rehabilitation.

In addition to regular studies, a great deal of extra-curricular activity is sponsored by the teachers in every school. After study hours you can find many children taking part in literature, geography, history, music, singing and dancing circles.

Every school has its own library. Boys and girls with a bent for technical and engineering subjects have access to a children's technical hobby center. One hundred and sixty youngsters attend circles for model-makers, for technicians, for amateur photographers and for young naturalists.

A contest of young physicists and chemists held in Dnieprodzerzhinsk not long ago attracted more than a thousand participants.

In addition to general educational schools, the town has two special schools. One is an athletic school with an enrollment of 100 pupils, and the other a music school attended by 220 promising young musicians. Pupils come to these schools after their regular studies. The music school has classes in piano, violin and folk instruments, and from time to time they arrange concerts to show the achievements of their pupils.

The Soviet state remembers the young people whose studies were interrupted by the German occupation and who now are too old to attend the ordinary secondary school. These young men and women are working in factories and offices, but they want a secondary school education. So five special schools known as Schools of the Working Youth have been set up and their classes, held in the evening, have nearly a thousand pupils. They follow the regular programs for secondary schools and students have to pass examinations before being transferred from grade to grade. Tuition is free. And when a young worker is about to graduate from the tenth grade, and has to pass his final examinations, the factory management grants him a twenty-day paid leave to prepare for the exams. Pupils of the eighth and ninth grades are granted a ten-day leave before examinations.

So you see, all children and young people are given every opportunity for study. And the same is true of adults, for whom there are a whole series of educational institutions.

Among the institutions for higher education is the pedagogical school which trains teachers for the elementary grades. It has an enrollment of 400, as well as a correspondence department with 500 students. Correspondence courses are taken by teachers in villages adjacent to Dnieprodzerzhinsk. This enables them to broaden their general education and improve their pedagogical skill. They receive assignments and textbooks by mail, and twice a year they come to Dnieprodzerzhinsk for examinations. There are cases where some of the teacher-students come to town with their children, and the City Soviet places the youngsters in kindergartens so the mothers are able to devote themselves entirely to their examinations.

There is a metallurgical technical school which has two departments—day and evening. Studying in the evening department are people holding regular jobs at the mill. They are delving into the theoretical aspects of blast furnace operation, steel melting, rolling of metal, coke-chemical and power pro-



duction. Two hundred and fourteen students received their diplomas in 1948. A large number of them remained in Dnieprodzerzhinsk and the others took jobs as technicians in iron and steel mills in different parts of the country.

Another industrial technical school has an enrollment of 360 students: future technologists, mechanics, etc. And there is a school, with about this same enrollment, which prepares surgeon's assistants and obstetricians.

Dnieprodzerzhinsk also has a higher metallurgical institute named after Arsenichev (one of the town's heroic Revolutionary workers). Its classes are held in the evening, four times a week, and the auditoriums are filled by serious students who value every minute of their time because they study while carrying on their jobs at the mill. Among the 284 students are rank-and-file workers, foremen, brigade leaders, and they will graduate with the diploma of metallurgical or mechanical engineer. The institute is twenty-seven years old and counts among its alumni hundreds of prominent experts in the iron and steel industry.

In an auditorium of the Dnieprodzerzhinsk metallurgical institute there is a special stand carrying the photos and names of its graduates. Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev, secretary of the regional committee of the Communist Party, received his engineer's diploma here; Nikolai Mikhailovich Fomenko, formerly a worker and now director of the steel mill; Ivan Alexandrovich Nekrasov, chief blast furnace expert of the metallurgical industry of the USSR, attended lectures at this institute for five years. Stepan Petrov, chief steel melter of the Dzerzhinsky Mill, Oleinik, chief electrical engineer of the mill, Georgi Oreshkin, blast furnace shop superintendent, Mikhail Romanov, manager of the concentration plant—all received their higher education at the institute.

Thus, the town itself prepares its executives for industry, and trains its own skilled workers.

The finest buildings on the main thoroughfare house voca-

tional schools. Seven thousand boys and girls are mastering a variety of trades under the guidance of experienced teachers and instructors.

Dneprodzerzhinsk has three trade schools and six industrial training schools. The trade schools have a two-year course of study and the industrial training schools, six months. Young men and girls study theoretical subjects for several hours every day and then go to the factories and mills to get practical training on the job. After completing the course, they start work in industry as educated and skilled workers.

Both Eduard Zalevsky, the 19-year-old steel melter, and Mikhail Kolodko, 18-year-old blast furnace operator, studied in these trade schools and, young as they are, can hold such responsible jobs in the complex process of making iron and steel. They received their practical training under the guidance of veteran workers who love young people. When they were graduated and started work at the mill, their instructors took them into their brigades. The old-timers watched their programs, advised and helped them; and before long the young workers were recommended for promotion.

In former times young workers could not even dream of such things. There was no technical training of workers. Today no one can work in industry unless he passes a "minimum technical" course. It includes the rudiments of technical knowledge required of all the workers.

But many are not satisfied with this minimum, and take advantage of the opportunities for further study at Stakhanov schools, advanced training courses, schools for foremen, courses in allied trades, etc.

Every large industrial plant in Dneprodzerzhinsk has its own training center. This center organizes various courses, schools and seminars, and signs contracts with highly skilled workers for the training of newcomers. It conducts examinations and issues certificates upon completion of a course. . . .



In a single half year, 1,275 people completed various courses in the Dzerzhinsky Mill alone, and at other enterprises more than 2,000 people were engaged in different kinds of technical study.

Thus, pupils are being taught by teachers, and these teachers themselves are increasing their knowledge at seminars, conferences on methods and correspondence courses in pedagogical institutes.

Boys and girls are studying in vocational schools, getting practical training under the guidance of highly skilled instructors; and the instructors, in their turn, are attending special courses.

Students of the technical schools and the metallurgical institute are listening to lectures by assistant professors: Molotkov, Plotkin, Beilinov. But Molotkov, Plotkin and other instructors at the institute are devoting their free time to study, to preparing dissertations for their doctorates. They are seeking the advice of outstanding metallurgists and chemists of Moscow, Kiev and Dniepropetrovsk.

Communists, the foremost workers in Party organizations, are teaching the history of the Communist Party and the foundations of Leninism at factories and offices. They in turn, however, are enrolled at the Communist University of Marxism-Leninism. . . .

The total number of students in elementary and secondary schools, technical schools, the institute, the Communist University and the technical training centers is an imposing figure—27,000 in a town whose total population is one hundred and thirty thousand. This means that someone is studying in practically every family.

That is why, when speaking of this typical Soviet town, Dnieprodzerzhinsk, one can truthfully say:

The whole town is studying—studying with the same inspiration, the same enthusiasm as it is working.

## NEW HOMES FOR OLD

An old two-story building is being torn down on Syrovets Street. People are removing the bricks and piling them in heaps. What sort of house is this? To whom does it belong and why is it being torn down?

The house belongs to Fyodor Grigoryevich Guba, head of a brigade at the railway shop of the iron and steel mill. He lived in it for many years together with the families of his son and daughter. However, the town is growing and the street has to be widened. A whole block of four-story apartment houses has risen next to Guba's home. The little old building spoiled the general architectural plan. It is out of place now and has to be torn down.

But this is being done without injuring the owner of the home, for the aim of reconstruction in the town is to improve the life of its population.

In the Soviet Union, the land is the property of the state, that is, of the entire people. Land is given to home-builders for free use. The state plans rationally for the construction and reconstruction of cities; but in doing so it always takes into account the interests of the inhabitants.

This was the case with Fyodor Guba. When the City Soviet passed a resolution to reconstruct Syrovets Street, to widen it and build four-story comfortable apartment houses, the question arose as to what to do with the home of Fyodor Guba. He was offered the choice of either moving into a new apartment



houses or building his own home in a different location. In the latter case he was to be given a plot in a convenient place, building materials at a low price, a long-term loan and, in addition, he was to receive the full value of the house which was torn down.

Fyodor Guba realized that if he were to refuse these offers he would hamper the reconstruction of the town; moreover, he would miss a good opportunity to build a better home for himself and his children at a convenient location and at a low cost. The City Soviet offer of a new house suited him and he readily accepted it.

Guba received a large plot of land to build three houses: for himself, for his son Yakov and his daughter Maria.

The old home was appraised at 41,000 rubles. The home owner was paid this money. Under Soviet laws, when a family moves in connection with reconstruction, it receives a grant of 1,000 rubles for each member. Thus the family of Fyodor Guba received an additional 9,000 rubles. The old home had to be dismantled and all the building materials carted to the new site by trucks provided by the mill. The mill also gave Guba some other building materials at a low price; and a 10,000-ruble loan was extended to him by the mill management to be repaid over ten years.

So three neat, white buildings arose on the new site. In one of them lives the head of the family with his wife Varvara Antonovna. With them lives their daughter Irina Fyodorovna, who works as inspector in the state bank, and their granddaughter Ludmilla.

In the next house live Fyodor Guba's son, Yakov Fyodorovich, and his wife, Tamara Nikolayevna, both of whom are physicians.

The youngest daughter, Maria Fyodorovna Podzerko, is a bookkeeper at the mill's dining room. Her husband, Vladimir Andreyevich Podzerko, is foreman of a building organization en-

gaged in industrial restoration work. They have a 12-year-old daughter, and this family occupied the third house.

The homes are modestly furnished, but in good taste, with comfortable furniture, white curtains, flowers and attractive fixtures which make the homes cozy and cheerful.

Other houses, also belonging to workers of different Dnieprodzerzhinsk factories and mills, arose in a short time on the street where the Guba family settled. Konstantin Kolomojets, a worker in the oxygen compressor shop, is completing the building of his home. He did not have to resort to the services of an architect. The town's Public Utilities Department offered him a choice of different designs, and he had to pay only six rubles for the blueprints of the one he picked. The mill gave Kolomojets a 10,000-ruble loan to be repaid in ten years. He was also provided with building materials, and trucks to bring them to the site. Konstantin Kolomojets will soon move into his own home, and he plans to lay out an orchard around the house.

Pavel Kulbachny, Illarion Oleinik and other workers are building homes on similar terms. I asked Sergei Brusov, the town's chief architect, whether a worker would lose his home if he fails to make payments on his loan.

The chief architect smiled:

"You evidently have in mind the American system where goods bought on the installment plan can be taken back by the company if installments are not paid; or a bank can foreclose on a mortgage.

"Such things are inconceivable in our country. Everything a man invests in the building of his home—labor, materials, money, etc.—always remains his personal property. If circumstances prevent him from making a payment on his loan, the management of the organization where he works, as well as the bank, will extend the term of the loan. Also, the mutual aid fund and his trade union organization will always give a helping hand to a man in need.



"No, it is impossible to picture our worker in the position of the American who has to lose things for which he paid in part because he is unable to keep up the payments."

Dneprodzerzhinsk has 9,500 homes, three-quarters of which are the personal property of citizens. The rest of the buildings belong to enterprises or to the City Soviet. Each factory and mill builds homes for its personnel. In the USSR, where there is no unemployment and there could not be any, enterprises are interested in attracting and keeping labor. Workers coming from other towns or villages need living quarters, and it is for them that factories build new homes. These are attractive, convenient and well-appointed houses. Rents in the USSR are extremely low. The average rate is 4 per cent of the earnings of the tenant. Two families, occupying similar apartments, pay different monthly rent according to the difference in their earnings.

Dneprodzerzhinsk has a building where people without families reside. This house is known as "Bachelors' Home," and it provides full service to its tenants. They do not have to worry about cleaning the rooms, washing the laundry or cooking meals, because the house has its own restaurant, laundry and service personnel. When a tenant of this house marries, the management of his enterprise provides him an apartment in another building.

The town has several hostels for youth, a large hotel, and homes where visitors to the iron and steel mill and car-building works can stay.

New construction of homes, whether by private citizens, enterprises, or the City Soviet, is carried out strictly according to plan. The town's chief architect sees that homes are built in the more healthful districts, and that the architecture of the buildings harmonizes with the town's layout. He and his assistants are the Permanent Municipal Economy Committee of the City Soviet. Considerable town improvement is conducted also

by other commissions of the Public Utilities Department of the City Soviet.

Dnieprodzerzhinsk is comparatively small in area and has had no need for trolleybuses or taxis. But the development of the town and the building of new factories made a tramcar service necessary.

The first tramcars started running in 1936. They connected all the districts and enterprises of the town, and went to the nearby railway stations of Baglei and Pravda. The Germans wrecked the tramcar system, but restoration of the track and repair of the tramcars was started by the drivers, conductors, switchmen and other employees as soon as the town was liberated and service was resumed in a short time.

In the course of a year the tramcars carry more than 16 million passengers. The lines now extend for 16 miles, and a new section being built at a cost of four million rubles is to connect the center of the town with the nitrate fertilizer works.

The public utilities of the town are constantly being expanded and improved. In addition to the building of the new tramcar line, work is under way on the extension of the water mains.

In the spring of 1948, municipal organizations of the City Soviet planted 7,000 six-year-old trees and 8,500 shrubs, and a similar number were planted in the autumn. A new 34-acre park has been laid out on the bank of the Dnieper, where the people of the town like to spend their leisure hours, and already about 170 different varieties of trees and shrubs have been planted there.

Some 80,000 two- and three-year-old trees have been raised by the town's nursery. But even this number proved to be insufficient for Dnieprodzerzhinsk's greenery plans; so in the autumn of 1948 another nursery, occupying an area of more than 34 acres, was laid out.

The 7,000 trees are dear to the people of Dnieprodzerzhinsk



not only because of the shade they provide but because the people themselves have participated in planting and nurturing them. Everyone can say: "I planted and helped to raise these trees."

Each street has elected a committee whose task is to help the Soviet improve the town, keep it clean and beautiful. There are 500 such street committees, and many of the larger apartment houses also have their special town improvement commissions.

A Dnieprodzerzhinsk resident can say: "I built this home," or "I helped to lay out this square." And he can also truly claim that he has helped to organize the town's transport service, provide water, and create all the requisites for proper living conditions.

This participation of the population in improving living conditions and beautifying their town is typical not only of Dnieprodzerzhinsk, but of all Soviet cities.

## HEALTHY PEOPLE

A Soviet citizen who comes to a capitalist city is always surprised at the large number of signs announcing that doctor so-and-so receives patients at such and such hours. At times it seems to him as though there are more physicians in the town than inhabitants.

If the reader were to come to Dnieprodzerzhinsk, he would not see a single doctor's sign on any house. The general physicians do not practice privately. This reflects the difference in the organization of public health service in the USSR and in capitalist countries.

Thousands of young people are graduated annually from medical schools in America, Britain and other bourgeois countries. When they leave their Alma Mater with a diploma the young physicians are left to their own devices. They have to rely not only on their medical knowledge but on their business ability. It is not an easy matter to build up a clientele, furnish an office and win the confidence of patients, so that one can make a living during the first years. The difficult lot of the physician is excellently described in many novels of European and American writers, just as the situation in tsarist days was so well portrayed by Chekhov in his *Notes of a Doctor*.

The working man in a capitalist country is also due for a hard time when he gets sick. He, too, must shift for himself. If he has enough money to call a doctor or to visit his office, he is lucky. Illness for the ordinary worker is tantamount to



unemployment. It is even worse, for after his illness he must work to pay the doctor and hospital bills.

In the USSR medical aid is rendered free of charge to all citizens. This means it is available to all citizens, and not only to those holding a job. A sick person does not have to go to the office of a private doctor. He can receive any form of highly specialized medical aid in his polyclinic or hospital. Here any analysis which is needed, any x-ray or electro-cardiogram will be made—everything a man requires to regain his health.

That is why in making the acquaintance of Dnieprodzerzhinsk you will not come across any signs announcing that doctor so-and-so receives at such and such hours.

Put yourself for a moment in the place of a Dnieprodzerzhinsk citizen who is in need of medical help. What facilities are there? If you were employed at a factory and were taken sick during working hours, you would first of all visit the medical station right in your shop. The town's enterprises have 51 such medical stations, many of them functioning around the clock. These stations treat small injuries on the job, light colds or other minor ailments. If you require more prolonged treatment, you can call at one of the district polyclinics, or dispensaries.

The large plants—the iron and steel mill, car-building works, and coke-chemical plant—have their own dispensaries which treat their own workers and office employees. Two city dispensaries serve the rest of the population. These are not large and the staff of doctors includes only three specialists.

In addition to the five dispensaries, Dnieprodzerzhinsk has five district polyclinics, one of them exclusively for children.

Let us visit a district polyclinic. . . . It is housed in a spacious, immaculately clean and bright building. Here you will be examined by an attentive physician. He is not interested in whether you are rich or poor, whether you are in a position to give him a large or small fee. He receives a salary from the state for his work and it is his duty to treat all patients with equal considera-

tion and attention. He applies all his knowledge and experience to restoring the health of a patient as quickly as possible.

Every district polyclinic has physicians specializing in different fields—therapy, surgery, otolaryngology, gynecology, etc.

If the patient's health does not permit him to visit the polyclinic, a telephone call is sufficient to summon a doctor to his home. Medical service at home is also free.

A polyclinic not only treats patients. It also has the right to release a man from work if he is temporarily incapacitated, and to issue a certificate which entitles him to receive sick benefits throughout his illness. A factory or office worker in the USSR, in contrast to one in a capitalist country, does not have any sense of insecurity about the future. He does not fear unemployment because there is none in the Soviet Union and its very possibility is excluded by the planned system of economy. He does not fear losing his wages because of illness, since state social insurance guarantees him sick benefits throughout the entire period of disability.

The size of the benefits depends on length of service. A worker who has been employed at one enterprise or office for not less than eight years receives 100% of his average earnings during illness. In the case of shorter service, the amount of the benefit is somewhat lower.

Most Dnieprodzerzhinsk inhabitants are metallurgical workers. In accordance with a decision of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, those who work in the main shops of the iron and steel mill enjoy special privileges in case of illness.

Should a worker in a metallurgical, coke-chemical or other department be temporarily disabled by an accident on the job or by some occupational illness, he receives benefits equaling 100% of his earnings irrespective of length of service. In the case of ordinary ailments, workers in these shops receive 100% benefits if they have worked at a given enterprise for not less than one



year. If they have a shorter record of service, they are paid benefits amounting to 60% of their average earnings.

Suppose you have treatment at one of the district polyclinics to Dnieprodzerzhinsk. You have been examined, the case diagnosed, medicines prescribed, and you have received a certificate of temporary disability entitling you to sick benefits from the social insurance fund during your illness. Also the physician has found it necessary to place you in a hospital for further examination and treatment.

Dnieprodzerzhinsk has four general hospitals with accommodations for 663 patients. Two small hospitals have been set up specially for children. Tubercular patients in need of hospitalization are sent to the tuberculosis clinic; and, for townspeople who need constant physiotherapy there is a special physiotherapy hospital. Dnieprodzerzhinsk also has four well-equipped maternity homes.

At the First City Hospital, all forms of medical aid are available. There is a surgical department where the most difficult operations are performed. Highly qualified physicians are in charge of the accident and general medical divisions as well as the departments of ophthalmology, otolaryngology, urology and oncology. Each department has its own physiotherapy equipment, quartz and sunlamps. There is also a physiotherapy clinic nearby where a patient can obtain x-ray, electrical, and balneological treatment. The hospital has two x-ray departments and a large laboratory.

Ask the patients what was required to get them into this well-equipped health institution, and each one will reply: "Nothing but a statement from a doctor in the district polyclinic."

Hospitals as well as polyclinics render their services free of charge, and hospitals also have the right to issue temporary disability certificates. This system, of course, holds true not only at the First City Hospital, but at all other health institutions.

The Soviet Government shows particular concern for mothers. Besides maternity homes, Dnieprodzerzhinsk has five mother and child consultation centers. Expectant mothers come here to seek advice of physicians. After giving birth, they regularly bring their infants for examinations. Besides this, visiting nurses regularly call at the homes of mothers and infants.

If a nursing mother is short of milk, the consultation center gives her special baby foods prepared at two milk stations.

Expectant mothers who work in a factory or office receive a temporary disability certificate 35 days prior to confinement and their leave extends for 42 days after childbirth. Throughout the maternity leave, the woman receives her average wages from the state social insurance fund. After resuming work, she is given the opportunity, if she wishes, to place her child in a nursery where the infants are cared for while mothers work. Several times in the course of the working day the mother is entitled by law to a recess in order to feed her child.

About fourteen hundred little ones are brought by their mothers to the city's eleven nurseries. In age they range from one month to four years. Children from four to seven, are placed in kindergartens while their mothers work if there is no one at home to care for them.

The money to maintain the many hospitals, polyclinics, clinics, maternity homes, consultation centers, nurseries and children's homes comes from the City Soviet. In 1948 they appropriated 52% of the entire budget of the town for public health services.

Large additional sums for health services come from the state social insurance fund and are dispensed by the trade union organizations.

The individual worker does not have to make any contributions whatever to the social insurance fund. The state has set up this fund. That is why it is called 'state social insurance' in the USSR. The management of every factory and office pays an-



nually a certain percentage, based on its total payroll, for the needs of social insurance. This sum, contributed entirely by management, is turned over to the trade union organization. The more workers there are, the bigger the total payroll and, consequently, the more funds there are for social insurance.

The books of the trade union committee at the Dzerzhinsky Iron and Steel Mill show that every year the mill management turns over to the trade union organization a sum equivalent to 8.7% of the total payroll. This sum comprises the state social insurance fund which the mill trade union committee administers. It is growing from year to year, because both the number of employees and their wages are rising. With the increase in the social insurance fund, expenditures for improving the life of the working people are also mounting.

In 1945 the state social insurance fund at the Dzerzhinsky Iron and Steel Mill amounted to 6.5 million rubles; the next year it exceeded 10 million rubles; in 1947 it increased by another 3.5 million, and in 1948 it was close to 16 million.

What are these large sums spent for?

Previously we mentioned that each worker who is temporarily disabled is entitled to sick benefits. With the certificate from the district polyclinic, he applies to his trade union and, in accordance with the law, is paid either 100% of his earnings or a somewhat smaller sum.

Sick benefits are an important item in the expenditure of state social insurance, an important though by no means the only one.

There are quite a number of women employed in the mill, and they draw benefits during maternity leave. This is listed as a special item of expenditure. Also the trade union committee always makes a present of a layette to each newborn infant. Last year they spent 232,600 rubles for this purposes.

The next substantial item is payment for accommodations in sanatoriums and rest homes. Every factory and office worker

in the Soviet Union receives an annual paid vacation. Many people want to go to a sanatorium or rest home to build up their health or get medical treatment.

Before the Revolution, workers had no paid vacations and a trip to a health resort was something beyond their fondest dreams. The best land at spas belonged to the rich, who built villas and palaces for themselves. Hotels and boarding houses charged such high prices that only well-to-do people could afford to stay there.

Now health resorts are accessible to the masses of working people. If a worker is in need of special treatment at one of the health resorts, he goes to his trade union committee and they arrange for the necessary accommodations. The worker himself usually pays only one-third of the cost of treatment, board and lodging; two-thirds are paid by the trade union from the state social insurance fund.

In 1947 nearly a thousand workers and other employees of the Dzerzhinsky Iron and Steel Mill spent their vacations at sanatoriums and rest homes. The next year the number increased to twelve hundred. Iron and steel men receive balneological treatment at the famed Matsesta Resort at Sochi in the Caucasus on the Black Sea, or drink curative mineral waters in Kislovodsk, bathe on the beaches of the Black Sea or the Gulf of Riga, rest in the Crimea or the shady forests near Kiev.

There are, of course, some workers who cannot pay even one-third of the cost of accommodations at these resorts. These are invalids of the Patriotic War who cannot work as productively as people in good health, and consequently earn less; or they are young workers, unskilled workers, or those with large families. Thirty per cent of all accommodations purchased by the trade unions are issued to such people free of charge.

Besides enabling workers to visit health resorts, the trade union committee has from social insurance funds established a night sanatorium for workers in need of rest and special diets.



The unusual feature of this institution is that it gives people a chance to receive treatment and build up their health without stopping work. The night sanatorium has accommodations for 140 people. They live in cozy rooms and are given four meals daily. In the morning, after breakfast, the guests leave for their regular jobs at the mill. During recess they come for lunch and then go back to work. When the whistle announces the end of the shift, they all return to the sanatorium. They are under the constant care of physicians, who prescribe the necessary treatment and regimen. The guests spend the evening playing games, dancing or visiting the theater and cinema, but all must retire at a prescribed hour. Workers stay at the sanatorium from one to three months, and this does not affect their regular annual paid vacation.

The mill also has a one-day rest home where workers can spend their free day outdoors in pleasant surroundings. Last year the one-day rest home accommodated 41,000 guests.

Two-thirds of the cost of maintaining the night sanatorium and the one-day rest home are covered from the state social insurance fund and only one-third is paid by the workers themselves.

Not far from the night sanatorium is a dietetic dining room for the mill's personnel in need of special foods. About 300 people receive breakfasts and dinners there. Physicians prescribe special diets for people suffering from chronic gastric ailments, diabetes, kidney trouble, etc. The trade union committee covers from 25% to 70% of the cost of the meals. Last year 385,000 rubles of social insurance money was spent for such subsidies.

Special diets are usually prescribed for three to four months, and statistics show that approximately 50% of the patients fully recover after going through a course of dietetic treatment. The others suffer no recurrence of their diseases for a long time.

As we have shown, a substantial part of the social insurance fund is spent for improving the health of the workers. But the

fund to some degree extends also to the members of a worker's family, especially to the children.

Every year thousands of children's camps are set up in the forests, or on the banks of rivers and lakes.

In 1948 workers of the Dzerzhinsky Mill sent 1,847 children to a summer camp located on the bank of the Dnieper near the village of Shchurovka. In wintertime the buildings house a sanatorium of the Central Committee of the Iron and Steel Workers' Trade Union. The adults gave the children the premises for the summer.

In 1949 the children rested in their own new camp which the trade union committee of the mill built for them.

There is free accommodation at the camp for the children of invalids and war veterans, orphans whose parents worked at the mill and, lastly, boys and girls of workers with large families. The parents of other children are required to pay a small sum which even a non-skilled worker can afford.

Six hundred and twenty children of pre-school age spend the summer months at a large country home in a village near the Dnieper. The parks of the city have special playgrounds where children receive their meals and where 1,100 children of the mill's workers spend the summer months.

Altogether nearly 3,600 children of the personnel of the Dzerzhinsky Mill were able in 1948 to spend the summer outdoors, gain weight and build up their health. One million rubles from the state social insurance fund helped to provide these services. A total of 5,835 youngsters from the town of Dniprodzerzhinsk stayed at camps and 3,304 children of pre-school age rested, played and had their meals at playgrounds.

The state social insurance fund at the Dzerzhinsky Iron and Steel Mill may be larger than at other plants which have fewer workers; but every industrial establishment has its own state social insurance fund, which is spent for the same purposes as that of the Dzerzhinsky Mill.



If you combine all these funds and add the 21,600,000 rubles (52% of the city budget) appropriated for public health, you get a clear picture of the town's care for the health of its inhabitants.

No wonder you see healthy, vigorous people on the streets of Dnieprodzerzhinsk. And though work at the steel mill, cement factory or nitrate-fertilizer plant is by no means easy, you will not find any traces of exhaustion or fatigue on the faces of the workers because of this constant concern for their health.

## VETERANS COME BACK

In Dnieprodzerzhinsk, as throughout the Soviet Union, there was no returning war veteran who could not get a job—a job he liked. Working people are esteemed and those who defended their country enjoy special consideration.

Take the case of Alexander Pozdnyakov, a Hero of the Soviet Union. As soon as he returned to his native town, he was offered an administrative post at the metallurgical institute. He accepted it and at the same time is completing his education at the institute. The townspeople have elected him deputy to the City Soviet. Hero of the Soviet Union Alexei Deinega is now employed as chairman of the board of a tailors' cooperative. Grigori Storchevoi served as a private in the First World War and later defended the Soviet republic from Whiteguards and foreign interventionists. In 1941 he voluntarily joined the Soviet army. When the war ended, he returned to Dnieprodzerzhinsk and today works as foreman in the machine shop of the town's power station. Vasili Byvshev ran away from a vocational school and joined the army. Together with Soviet troops he advanced as far as Budapest where he was wounded in battle. After recovery he returned home and now works at the nitrate fertilizer plant. To his heroic war record he is adding outstanding achievements on the job. Though still a young man, he is a highly respected Stakhanovite and systematically exceeds his production quotas. He has been elected by his fellow-workers a



delegate to an all-Union conference of Stakhanovites in the nitrate industry.

All former servicemen have found employment. Every one of them has taken his place in Soviet society. This holds true not only for those who have preserved their health and capacity for work, but also for war-maimed veterans. In Dnieprodzerzhinsk you see some who have lost their arms and legs, or their sight. But no one stands at a street corner begging for alms or selling matches.

Society is taking care of the war invalids. To begin with, all of them, after demobilization, have been given pensions, regardless of whether they are working or are fully maintained by the state.

But Soviet society does not limit itself merely to paying pensions to people who lost their health on the field of battle. It seeks to give them every opportunity for regaining a useful place in life, and to provide suitable jobs for those still able to perform socially useful labor.

Many of the invalids have returned to their pre-war occupations. If their posts were held by others, the management, in accordance with a special law, either had to reinstate them on the old job or provide similar employment at wages no lower than formerly.

In many cases, however, war injuries prevent invalids from engaging in their former trades, and the question of acquiring new vocations arises. Here the Social Welfare Department of the City Soviet comes in. This department is headed by Vladimir Alexeyevich Zerni, himself a war invalid. Naturally the interests of veterans disabled at the front are very close to him. He personally meets each invalid, and learns what he wants to do and for what he is best suited. The department has set up several schools and special courses. Seventy-six war invalids have already graduated from accounting courses and found employment in various offices.

The hospital where some former servicemen are still being treated has courses for radio technicians and operators. As soon as they complete the course of treatment, they receive jobs in their new lines.

Twenty-five war veterans have attended courses for sales clerks and are now working in stores.

A large number of invalids have become members of various producers' cooperatives. Some 300 veterans have joined the Progress Cooperative, which has its own tailoring establishments, shoe repair shops, a machine shop, watch repair shops, etc. These cooperatives, like the collective farms, have mutual benefit societies which provide their members with various forms of insurance and pensions, and maintain a system of clinics, sanatoriums, rest homes and children's camps similar to those of the trade unions.

Before starting work, each war invalid received a five-month course of training and during his studies was given a stipend by the town's Social Welfare Department.

This department had to handle some difficult cases, but always found a solution.

Roksha, a native of Dnieprodzerzhinsk, lost his sight as a result of a war wound. He had been given a pension, but some occupation had to be found for him so that he would not feel like a burden to society and to himself. Vladimir Alexeyevich Zerni learned that Roksha has an excellent ear for music and before the war had been greatly interested in studying. He proposed that Roksha enroll in a music school at Odessa and learn to play the accordion. He assured the blind man that on his return to Dnieprodzerzhinsk he would have a job waiting for him at one of the town's clubs.

Roksha was deeply touched but said, "Where will I get the money to buy a ticket to Odessa and how will I get along there?"

"You will be getting a stipend regularly," said Zerni, "and be provided with free board and lodging at the Odessa school.



You will also be drawing your pension and anyone you designate will be able to get it for you here."

"It's a wonderful suggestion. Even before the war I dreamed of becoming a musician. But I cannot go alone to Odessa."

"Let some one of your relatives go with you. We will cover the travelling expenses."

So Roksha went to Odessa with his sister. The blind invalid is now studying there and a job is waiting for him in Dnieprodzerzhinsk.

And here is the story of two girls—the sisters Zinaida and Yekaterina Kobzar. Before the war their father worked as a mechanic at the coke-chemical plant. He was killed at the front and the mother died soon afterwards.

The moment the report came that mechanic Kobzar was killed, a pension was given to his family. From time to time the plant where Kobzar had worked before the war helped the family by providing clothes for the girls and giving them a small plot for a truck garden.

Zinaida and Yekaterina were able to continue their studies in school, and when the elder, Zinaida, graduated from secondary school, the Social Welfare Department sent her to take an accounting course. She drew a stipend while studying. After graduation, she was given a job as accountant in the offices of the coke-chemical plant, where her hard work and ability led to promotion. She now is a bookkeeper in the central bookkeeping department.

Yekaterina is continuing her studies at a secondary school from which she will graduate soon. Then she will enter the Dniepropetrovsk Medical Institute, where she will receive a stipend while studying and so, with some help from her sister, be able to realize her dream of becoming a doctor.

I could go on citing many more cases proving the concern of the town for war invalids and for the families of servicemen who gave their lives for their country. For instance, artificial

limbs are issued free of charge to all invalids. There is a wide variety of them. Some replace a lost leg, others, an arm. Several invalids were given Shevelev artificial arms, which perform almost all the operations a human arm can. At a concert in the Palace of Culture I saw Prudkovsky, a former soldier, both of whose legs had been amputated. He was sitting in the aisle in a motorized wheel chair. He had driven the chair to the concert hall.

More than a hundred invalids were sent last year to health resorts in Kislovodsk, the Crimea and Odessa, with accommodations and travelling expenses paid for by the state. Twenty-five hundred children of invalids spent the summer in outdoor camps.

There is also a system of aid to labor invalids and the aged, for whose maintenance the state too appropriates large sums. In Dneprodzerzhinsk alone over one million rubles is paid every month in pensions to war and labor invalids and to families of skilled servicemen.

It should be stressed that all this aid extended to people who are completely or partially disabled, in no way resembles charity. This is not the "pity" of the rich who with alms hope to atone for their sins and at the same time gain the reputation of being "charitable."

The Soviet System has created an attitude of mutual interest among the working people. When members of society become disabled, their misfortune is not a private affair; it is a matter of concern to all of society. The state comes to their aid by providing free medical treatment, free prostheses, free training, and helps them in every way to acquire a new profession and obtain employment.

The state does everything in its power to help the invalid regain his place as a useful member of society.

And this not only enables the incapacitated person to lead a normal life, but infuses new strength in him and makes him feel that despite his disability he is in no way inferior to others.



## HONORED CITIZENS

As a compliment one is told in America: "You look like a million dollars."

One who has a great deal of money enjoys respect and prestige, regardless of how he has made that money.

Maxim Gorky, whose books have been published in all languages of the world, said after his visit to America in 1907 that in that country "a man who has five hundred dollars is ten times better than the one who has only fifty."

The "value" of a man in the capitalist world is defined by the size of his bank account, dividends, real estate property or trust fund.

This was also the case too in old Russia, where the "cream of society" in a town consisted of rich industrialists, landlords who lived on income from their estates, government officials who held soft jobs thanks to their capital or their powerful connections, owners of trading firms, bankers and the like. In a village, the most prominent people were the rich peasants, profiteers, usurers and the chief of the local police.

Never in Russia, before Soviet times, could an ordinary man, a worker, peasant, soldier or teacher, lay claim to a place of importance in society. The working man was not esteemed.

In old Kamenskoye, during the days of the tsar, the most esteemed people were the shareholders of the South-Russian Dnieper Joint-Stock Company. During German occupation, Samoilenko, the "town mayor," was regarded as the most impor-

tant personage in town. Among his "distinguished" services to society, in the opinion of the Germans, was the fact that he had served a long sentence in prison as an ordinary criminal and had been released only shortly before the German invasion.

In a way this was logical, because Samoilenko differed from the old shareholders only in the fact that in stealing public property he broke the law, whereas the former owners of the mill robbed their workers lawfully.

Ever since the workers and peasants of Russia took power into their own hands, ever since the attitude toward work changed and instead of an oppressive burden it became a matter of honor, glory and valor, the concept of who is a worthy citizen has also changed.

As Stalin said, "the workers and peasants who without any noise and fireworks build factories and mills, mines and railways, collective farms and state farms, create all the good things of life, feed and clothe the entire world—these are the real heroes and makers of the new life."

I want to introduce to the reader some of the most esteemed citizens of Dnieprodzerzhinsk, and tell how they earned that honor and respect and how people treat those whom they regard as their worthiest citizens. It is difficult to decide whether to begin with a deputy to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, the chairman of a producers' cooperative, the director of one of the largest plants in the country, a schoolteacher, a steel worker or a physician.

Each one of them is famous in his own way, and each one enjoys the respect of the townspeople. And no matter what their field of activity, they have one thing in common: it is not a bank account, or noble origin, powerful connections or a big trust fund that has brought them general respect. It was gained by their labor—honest, selfless labor—service to the people.

Let us first introduce Anna Andreyevna Zhuravel, a famous citizen of Dnieprodzerzhinsk.



You can see her at her home, at the steam boiler department of the Dzerzhinsky Mill where she is in charge of a brigade of fifteen women operators, or at the offices of the City Soviet where, as the people's representative to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, she receives visitors twice a week.

Anna Andreyevna was born thirty-nine years ago in the small Ukrainian village of Stetsivka, Kirovgrad Region. Her parents were poor peasants, and they willingly joined a collective farm when the villagers began to pool their work and their resources. Their children—Anna and her three brothers—became members of the collective farm together with them.

The brothers still live on the farm, but Anna left her native village at the age of nineteen. Since 1929 she has been working at the Dnieprodzerzhinsk Iron and Steel Mill. During the past nineteen years the town's inhabitants have had a chance to learn of Anna Zhuravel's good qualities.

She began work at the mill as an unskilled laborer in the building department. After a while she was appointed messenger, but she did not like that job. It was not what the young girl was looking for: she wanted to learn how to operate a machine.

She asked for a transfer to the machine shop. The management assigned a veteran worker as her instructor, and Anna proved to be a diligent pupil. As a mechanic, she was assigned to take charge of the equipment used in the manufacture of carbonated water.

To one not familiar with metallurgical production the job may seem rather unimportant, but Anna Zhuravel was fully aware of the importance her work had for the thousands of people working in hot shops. To men who stand in front of furnaces, a bit of carbonated water is a most refreshing drink.

Anna kept the equipment in perfect trim and there was always a steady supply of water for the mill's eighteen shops. Many a time, as a blast furnace operator or steelman quenched

his thirst, he thought kindly of the modest little woman who saw to it that water was always on the spot.

Anna held this job until the war started. In those trying days the mill was evacuated to the Urals. Anna Andreyevna Zhuravel, together with the other workers, stayed day and night at the mill, dismantling and loading equipment on railway cars. Resolute and businesslike, she set an example to others.

She returned to Dneprodzerzhinsk six months after the Germans had been driven from the town, and at once came to the mill and asked for work. She was appointed to a job in the steam boiler department as head of a brigade which had to feed steam to the blast furnace, open-hearth, rolling mill and other departments. This was a responsible job, and Anna showed great devotion and a fine sense of responsibility. Despite all difficulties, there never was a hitch in the supply of steam to the shops.

Everybody in town knows this modest, hard-working woman. All remember her selfless labor during the early days of the war. At a meeting for nomination of candidates for deputy to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR the name of Anna Andreyevna Zhuravel, Stakhanovite of the steam boiler shop, was one of the first to be mentioned. The voters enthusiastically cast their ballots for her, and Anna Zhuravel became a statesman, a deputy.

Today her name is known to the entire Soviet Union. Her townsmen are proud of her. They have shown great trust in her, but they have also made great demands, and she has justified their hopes.

"At first it was hard," Anna Zhuravel said. "I was afraid that I could not cope with my duties. But gradually I became used to it. After all, 'it doesn't take gods to make pots. . . .'"

Anna Andreyevna Zhuravel keeps in close contact with her electors. They often come to see her and she attends to their requests and listens to their advice and suggestions.

Soldier Alexei Deinega with a group of comrades was sent



for reconnaissance near Jassy. He crossed No-man's Land and penetrated some thirty kilometers behind the enemy lines. After reconnoitering the enemy's defenses, Deinega blew up a munitions dump and brought back with him three prisoners.

From Rumania, Deinega moved on to Hungary. In the district of Lake Balaton, he and other soldiers were ordered to cross the Danube, capture a bridgehead on the other side and hold it until the main forces arrived.

There were twelve of them. Eight perished, but four held out and kept the enemy at bay until the others crossed.

Soldier Deinega was awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union for this operation. When the war ended, he was a senior sergeant and had several battle decorations. His war-time record included the blowing up of twelve bridges and fourteen enemy headquarters. In the course of his scouting operations he captured 340 enemy soldiers.

A modest man, Deinega when he returned to Dnieprodzerzhinsk was overwhelmed by the attention and respect shown him everywhere. He was offered the choice of a job. He became manager of a tailors' cooperative. The townsmen elected him deputy to the Soviet. Children often ask Deinega to come to their school or summer camp. Adults invite him to parties. He is a guest of honor everywhere.

A gray-haired, spectacled, little woman walks along the street. School girls greet her. Boys stop their games to say: "Good morning, Elena Georgiyevna." Adults raise their hats to say, "How do you do?"

Elena Georgiyevna Pavlenko knows all the townspeople, and they all know her. She is sixty-seven years old and forty-eight of those years have been spent in educating children in the first grades of school.

The boy playing ball is her pupil, and the father who is watching him also studied in her class. His mother too attended

the same school. Both children and parents adore the teacher.

She visits the home of an engineer who is the father of one of her pupils, and tells him sternly, "Your daughter is falling down in her penmanship. You must pay more attention to her home work and help her a bit."

She goes to the office of Hero of the Soviet Union Alexander Pozdnyakov, a former pupil who is now assistant director of the metallurgical institute.

"Alexander," she says, "you have a student named R. His daughter is in my class, and she is in low spirits. I think the parents are probably in need of assistance. Find out what's wrong and help them."

Pozdnyakov thanks her and promises to take care of the situation at once. Then he adds, "And what about you, Elena Georgiyevna? Don't you think it's time for you to take a rest, to retire on a pension? . . . You must be close to seventy."

"Nonsense. I would be very lonesome without my work."

As the old teacher leaves Pozdnyakov's office, more people greet her along the street.

"Good evening, Elena Georgiyeva," says one man. "I haven't seen you for a long time—for at least three days. How are you?" And he holds his hat in his hand until the old teacher passes by.

Frol Ilyich Trushin, senior foreman of the open-hearth shop, is called "pop." He is addressed this way not only by young workers who came to the mill recently from trade school, but also by Yeroshkin, shop superintendent, and even Nikolai Fomenko, director of the mill. Incidentally, the director of the mill has more grounds for calling senior foreman Trushin "pop" than many others. Years ago, before the Revolution, when Trushin was a steel melter's helper, a lad was hired to work on his furnace as "lid boy." This was the name given to young workers who had to lift the lid of the open-hearth furnace for changing.



Many things have changed since then. The steel man's helper has become senior foreman. The lid is lifted by mere pressure of a button, and the "lid boy" is now director of the Dzerzhinsky Mill.

Trushin lives in a comfortable cottage in Zelyony Lane. On my way to his home, I could not find the lane for a long time. I asked several people, but no one could tell me where it was. "Too bad!" I exclaimed when I was told "I don't know" for the fourth time. . . . "I have to see Trushin today. . . ."

"Frol Ilyich? Why didn't you say so! Everybody knows where Frol Trushin lives! Come on, I'll show you."

People of the town may not know where some office is located or where a certain lane is, but everyone knows the home of Frol Trushin.

Trushin has been living in this town for fifty-four years. He began to work at the mill hauling carts loaded with coal. Next he was put to work charging the furnace. That was hard, back-breaking toil, and he spent twelve years at it before he was promoted to be second helper of the steel melter. Five years later he became a steel melter himself.

In former times this would have been the end of his career at the mill. An ordinary worker could not go any higher. But the Socialist Revolution made the people the owners of the mill, and Frol Trushin was advanced to the job of assistant foreman in the shop. Formerly only someone who lived in the Upper Colony, a loyal servant of the mill owner, could hold this post.

The mill was idle during the Civil War and accompanying economic breakdown. The furnaces were extinguished. There was no raw material. Then Trushin began organizing the revival of the dead factory. He inspired his fellow-workers so that they rebuilt the furnaces and did it all without any money or supplies from the state. Trushin headed the delegation of Kamenskoye workers which visited Felix Dzerzhinsky, Chairman of the

Supreme Council of National Economy, and received permission to re-start the mill.

In 1925 Frol Trushin became foreman in the open-hearth shop and five years later was promoted to senior foreman.

He is a living history of the town and the mill. When he walks along the streets of Dnieprodzerzhinsk, each house, each fence, every tree and smokestack evoke memories. Everything in the town is near and dear to him.

He has a treasured notebook which carried entries of all the heats of steel for every year of his work in the open-hearth shops.

He knows every steel melter, every helper personally. He can tell you all about their families, their children, where they studied, which of them has risen to prominence, in what cities they are living now.

He can supply the answer to any technical question relating to steel melting. So there is nothing surprising in the fact that from time to time the director of the mill comes to the shop and says to Trushin:

"Pop, I want your advice. . . ."

Tall, his back a little bent (the years are beginning to tell), with young, smiling eyes (the years were never able to efface this smile), he gives his reply to the director and the latter carefully jots down the advice of the senior foreman.

Frol Trushin has four sons, two daughters and thirteen grandsons. His eldest son, Ivan, is a graduate of a food institute and is now working as an engineer in Moscow. The second son, Mikhail, has completed a course in a military academy. He now holds the rank of lieutenant colonel and is teaching at his Alma Mater. The third, Dmitri, has a diploma from an institute of railway engineering and is employed as a station master. The youngest, Semyon, a graduate of the Dnieprodzerzhinsk metallurgical school, is in charge of the gas supply in the second open-hearth department.



Everyone in town respects the Trushin family. The Supreme Soviet of the USSR has awarded the head of this family, senior foreman Frol Ilyich Trushin, the highest decoration, the Order of Lenin.

An agricultural laborer is a peasant whose hands are his sole possession. These hands are exploited by the rich peasant or landlord and in return the laborer gets a mere pittance.

Pyotr Korneyevich Kolesnik was an agricultural laborer. Tall, broad-shouldered and physically strong, he made a good farmhand. He would have remained one for the rest of his life were it not for the Revolution.

The Soviet state opened the doors of schools to the people, and Kolesnik, the young agricultural laborer, began to study. He entered a school for junior medical personnel and on completing it took a job at the medical station in the Dzerzhinsky Mill.

He was on duty at the station every other day and on his free days he travelled to Dniepropetrovsk, the nearby regional center, to attend lectures at the medical institute. In 1928 Kolesnik received his doctor's diploma.

Pyotr Korneyevich Kolesnik has been practising for more than two decades in Dnieprodzerzhinsk. He specializes in orthopedics and traumatology. He is the chief surgeon of the town, chief doctor of the First Hospital and manager of its traumatological department, and a member of the presidium of the town's Scientific Medical Society.

A man that does not know what fatigue is, Kolesnik has only one passion, medicine, care for the people's health.

One day a worker came to the head of the town's Board of Health saying:

"Dr. Kolesnik is on vacation and I want to be operated on only by him. You are the leading medical authority in town and

I have come to you to ask whether I can wait until Kolesnik gets back, or must I be operated on at once?"

"But why do you insist on Kolesnik? We have other highly skilled surgeons in town."

"I know, but there is no one who can put your bones in order like Kolesnik. People say that he can take a man apart and put him together like a watch."

For his devotion to the people, everyone in Dnieprodzerzhinsk highly respects the chief surgeon. This doctor, who is not a member of the Communist Party, has been elected deputy to the City Soviet, and has been awarded the Order of the Red Banner of Labor.

The iron and steel mill is not only the biggest enterprise in Dnieprodzerzhinsk, but also the one that sets the pace for the life of the whole town. Its production achievements have been praised by the government on many occasions. So there is nothing surprising in the fact that Nikolai Mikhailovich Fomenko, director of the mill, is regarded as one of the leading men in the town.

Nor is there anything surprising in the fact that he has been elected deputy to the Town Soviet, several times in succession, and during the last elections to the Supreme Soviet of the Ukrainian Republic was chosen by the people as their representative.

There is nothing out of the ordinary in Nikolai Fomenko's life. The story of how this man came to be director of a large enterprise with an output worth many millions of rubles is typical of many thousands of people in the Soviet Union.

Nikolai Fomenko is the son of an ordinary worker who hauled rafted timber to a sawmill. One night when the elder Fomenko was crossing the Dnieper to get back home, his rowboat capsized; and although he managed to swim across the



stormy river and reach the bank, he caught cold and died several days later.

His widow, a seamstress by trade, had to care for four children. It was a hard job and the family frequently went hungry. Sometime later she remarried, a widower with two children, but life was not any easier. It was difficult to feed a family of eight.

The entire family moved to Kamenskoye, just one year before the Soviet Revolution.

Nikolai Fomenko's stepfather started work at the rolling mill. Thirteen-year-old Nikolai became a "lid boy," and had to work twelve hours a day.

The steel melter was a person of great importance and he paid no attention to Fomenko; but his helpers treated the newcomer well. At that time Pankratenko worked as first helper. Today he is foreman of the fifth open-hearth furnace. Frol Trushin was second helper, and today he is senior foreman of the first open-hearth shop. Pavel Kochetkov, outstanding Stakhanovite who has been awarded the Order of Lenin, worked as third helper. These men saw to it that the "lid boy" acquired a trade.

They certainly never thought then that the boy they took under their wing would become director of the mill. For that, either a miracle had to happen or the workers had to become owners of the mill. No miracle happened, but the mill became the property of the people, and this changed the entire life of "lid-boy" Nikolai Fomenko.

In childhood, which writers sometimes call "golden," Fomenko did not know what a school was. To be more exact, he had heard about it, but it was inaccessible to him. But when the country took the Socialist path there was nothing to prevent the lad from studying.

Nikolai Fomenko learned that workers' faculties, special schools enabling workers to acquire an education, were being set up in all cities. He began insistently demanding from the

trade union organization that a workers' faculty be set up in Kamenskoye. His efforts brought results, and Fomenko was one of the first students to enroll in the Workers' Faculty of Kamenskoye.

Some time later an evening metallurgical institute was opened in the town. It had preparatory courses, which Fomenko joined, and after completing them successfully he passed the tests for enrollment in the institute.

He came to the metallurgical institute in the evenings and eagerly absorbed every bit of knowledge imparted by his instructors. The theoretical grounding he gained at the institute helped him with his work at the mill, and everyone took pride in the achievements of the worker-student.

At the age of thirty-two Fomenko left the institute with the diploma of an engineer specializing in rolling mill operation. When he gained this higher education he was older than most other students, but he had plenty of time left to show his ability. . . .

The young engineer was put in charge of a shift at a new universal rolling mill which had just been launched. He handled the job well and a year later was promoted to shop superintendent. In two years he was awarded the Order of the Red Banner of Labor.

Shortly before the war, two shops were merged and Fomenko was put in charge of them. They were equivalent to an entire plant, and by the end of 1940 it became the best rolling mill department in the USSR. It was presented with the competitive Red Banner of the People's Commissariat of the Iron and Steel Industry.

During the war Nikolai Fomenko was sent to the Urals where he was put in charge of rolling mill operations at the Chusovaya Steel Mill. The plant was overloaded with orders. The rolling mills were unable to keep up with the program and



became the mill's bottleneck. One day the director summoned Fomenko to his office and said:

"The rolling mill department is lagging behind. There are not enough experienced engineers. Would you agree to head the department? Perhaps this is a demotion, but I am sure you, as a Bolshevik, will put aside personal ambition and help the mill to handle the war orders."

"To hell with demotion!" Fomenko replied. "I'll take the job."

The job was difficult. Many of the skilled workers had left for the army, so there was a shortage of men. But the department picked up speed. It managed to roll the entire backlog of ingots and after that kept up with the work of the rest of the mill.

In September 1943 Nikolai Fomenko was appointed director of the Siversk Iron and Steel Mill. Just as he was packing his luggage a telegram arrived, instructing him not to leave for the new post, but to come to Moscow at once.

Fomenko flew to Moscow, and in the Ministry of the Iron and Steel Industry he was told:

"You are to go to Dnieprodzerzhinsk. You've been appointed director of the Dzerzhinsky Mill."

"But the town is held by the Germans?"

"Yes, it is still in German hands, but it will soon be Soviet again."

A month later, on October 25, 1943, Soviet troops liberated Dnieprodzerzhinsk. On October 26, Nikolai Fomenko, director of the Dzerzhinsky Iron and Steel Mill, arrived in town.

But actually there was no mill. It lay in ruins, and Fomenko took charge of the immense job of restoration. Twenty-six days later the first steel was poured, and the forty-seventh day the first ingots were rolled. In 1945 the director of the Dzerzhinsky Mill was awarded his second Order of the Red Banner of Labor, and in 1948, the third.

Service to the people is the aim of Fomenko's life. It is to

improve the life of the people from year to year that the former "lid boy" and present director of the mill works indefatigably, without sparing himself.

He is simple and friendly, but at the same time he is very exacting; for he is responsible to the people for the vast mill they have intrusted to his care. And the workers faithfully carry out all his orders. Anyone who comes in contact with him knows that everything Fomenko does is in the interests of the people. He personifies the new Soviet intelligentsia that has grown up from the ranks of the working class and been schooled by the Soviet country and the Bolshevik Party.

These are merely brief sketches of people who are known to everyone in town, who are respected and honored as the most prominent citizens of Dnieprodzerzhinsk. Behind each name is a purposeful life filled with intensive labor, with struggle for the new and conflicts with the old.

It is not only great political leaders, outstanding generals or scientists who are famous and honored. Awards, a leading position in the community and, what is most important, general recognition of their services to the people are accorded in equal measure to political leaders and steelmen, marshals and soldiers, scientists and modest teachers. This is one more evidence of that genuine democracy which permeates all of Soviet life.



## REST AND CULTURE

In old Russia the capital and the provinces were direct opposites, like light and darkness or progress and stagnation.

In the capital one could attend performances by the finest actors of the country, visit art shows, listen to poets reciting their latest verse or savants delivering reports on the latest discoveries in science.

In the provinces there was really intellectual poverty. Only occasionally did some third-rate theatrical troupe arrive with a repertory of old plays, and even this was a great event remembered for a long time. A poet or a writer was a rarity; and if he did appear he was regarded as "odd" or "cracked." No scientific societies existed.

Life in the provinces used to come to a standstill at sundown. People would shut themselves up within the four walls of their homes, and spend the time gossiping, or drinking vodka and playing cards until dawn. Then, next day they resumed their dull and meaningless work.

Russian classic literature is filled with vivid descriptions of the sordid life in the provinces, where the best intentions were smothered, where intellectuals became degraded and lost interest in everything outside their daily tasks.

A remarkable contrast to this is provided by the life today in the "provincial" town of Dnieprodzerzhinsk. No longer is culture something far beyond reach of its people. They do not feel isolated from the rest of the country, do not shut themselves

up within the four walls of their homes. They lead a life filled with a variety of interests.

There is no interesting play produced in Moscow which the inhabitants of Dnieprodzerzhinsk cannot see on the stage of their own drama theater. Its repertory includes world and Russian classics and the latest works by Soviet and foreign authors.

I saw a "plan for spring vacations" written by sixteen-year-old Eugenia Podzerko on a page from her school notebook. In the course of the holiday she intended to see *Dog in the Manger*, by the classic Spanish playwright Lope de Vega; a Russian classic, *The Last Sacrifice*, by the famous dramatist Ostrovsky; and *Deep Are the Roots* by the modern American authors Gow and d'Usseau. During my stay in Dnieprodzerzhinsk, the repertory also featured Schiller's *Love and Intrigue*, Gogol's comedy *The Inspector General* and a number of plays by Soviet authors, including Korneichuk's *Platon Krechet*, Shkvarkin's *Another Man's Child* and Simonov's *The Russian Question*.

The local theater has been functioning regularly in this small town in the Soviet Union for twelve years. Yet even Washington, the capital of the United States, has no permanent theater company. The people of Dnieprodzerzhinsk are very proud of their theater for they love art; and though they know every intonation, every movement, every gesture of each actor, they nevertheless discover something new in every performance and are thus a source of great stimulation to the artists.

The best actors of Moscow, Leningrad and Kiev are frequent visitors in Dnieprodzerzhinsk, and the town's residents are able to discuss the merits and shortcomings of the largest theaters of the country as though they themselves often went to the capital.

The interest in art is not limited to the theater.

A literary association functions under the auspices of the local newspaper. Poets, prose writers, critics and lovers of *belles*



*lettres* meet twice a month in the offices of the paper to hear local men of letters read their latest verses, stories and tales. Their works often appear in print. They issued a collection of verse and stories under the title *A Town on the Dnieper*, and the collection was quickly sold out. Several works by Dnieprodzerzhinsk authors have been printed in the regional almanac *Dnieper Lights*. A Kiev literary journal published a long novel by Sergei Zavgorodny, called *Anton Nagnibeda*, which was dedicated to the struggle of the Ukrainian people against the German invaders in 1918.

From time to time the local newspaper publishes special "literary pages," carrying the writings of Dnieprodzerzhinsk's twenty men of letters who are members of the literary association.

These twenty people engage regularly in literary activity, but the number of factory workers, office employees and engineers who contribute to the daily newspaper and to the factory press is many times greater.

No large factory and mill is without its printed newspaper, and no office or shop without its wall newspaper. These newspapers are written and edited by volunteer journalists, so-called worker-correspondents, who regard their contributions to the press as a form of social activity.

The town's newspaper *Dzerzhinets* is published daily. By reading it, one learns about important events in the town, the country and the world at large.

The newspaper is edited by Fyodor Dobrik, former teacher in one of the town's schools. Among those on its staff are Vladimir Belyaev, former electrician at the iron and steel mill, and Fyodor Kiselev, former baker.

All of them were, in the past, ordinary worker-correspondents. Their contributions became popular with the readers and they were invited to join the newspaper's staff. They were given a chance to study, so Vladimir Belyaev took a correspond-

ence course at the Leningrad Institute of Journalism and Fyodor Kiselev attended a school in Kharkov.

In addition to seven journalists on its staff, the *Dzerzhinets* has nearly a hundred regular contributors who send in articles reporting everything of interest at the factories and offices, schools, cooperatives and other institutions in the town. . . . There are two hundred worker-correspondents who do not write regularly but can be listed among the paper's contributors. They are typical of Soviet people in wanting to share their experiences, to draw attention to shortcomings, and to do as much as possible for the common good. How different they are from the population of old "provincial" towns for whom nothing existed beyond the threshold of their homes.

Dudnikov, a locomotive engineer in the transport department, wrote an article about the work of supply stations in his department. No exact record was being kept of the coal issued for each engine. Dudnikov demanded that this be remedied: that the coal be weighed, and a bonus be given to drivers and stokers who save fuel. After the article was printed, the management reorganized the work of the supply stations.

Next Dudnikov wrote about some shortcomings in public dining-rooms. Again the situation was remedied.

Reiman, an engineer at the car-building works, wrote about labor-saving in some production processes; Klement, a labor invalid, drew attention to the greenery program and to deposits of lignites that could be tapped; Andrei Serovatin, instructor at the metallurgical technical school, wrote about utilization of equipment at the construction site of the rail rolling mill; coach Yerokhin discussed the playing of the local football teams; Victor Pogorely, a technician, showed what one percent saving in metallurgical production can achieve. . . . The articles of worker-correspondents reveal a great interest in problems which concern not primarily themselves but the town and, perhaps, the entire country.



After 6 p.m., when some of the town's people flock to the theater, others meet in the newspaper's offices to hear the latest works of poets and prose writers; still others follow carefully a lecture on the latest developments in international affairs; engineers of the coke-chemical plant and the nitrate fertilizer works hold a meeting of the Mendeleyev Society, at which papers are read on the latest achievements in chemistry.

At the same time, the Scientific Medical Council of the town's Board of Health holds its session.

And more than likely, teachers gather for a conference on pedagogical methods.

At an inter-district conference of physicians held at the medical workers' club, known as "Doctor's House," two of the speakers were Professor Chapkevich and Professor Goldstein. They live and work in the regional center, not in Dneprodzerzhinsk. However, they came to a small town not only to impart their experience and knowledge to local physicians, but also to learn from them.

The old provincial doctor, as we know him from Russian literature, was a man driven to exhaustion by endless visits, weighed down by worries about his daily bread, and unable to keep up with the progress of medicine. Of course, he could make no contribution to science. Now he has been replaced by a doctor of a new type. The doctors of Dneprodzerzhinsk belong to the town's medical society, where they are grouped according to their specialties. They carry on research, deliver reports, work on dissertations and are seeking to make their contribution to the progress of science.

The same holds true of engineers.

Yuri Usatenko, chief of one of the laboratories at the Dzerzhinsky Mill, is working on a dissertation for a scientific degree. Engineer Plotkin has designed an original installation for controlling the process of ore concentration, and it has attracted interest in the industry as a whole. Assistant Professor

Mikhail Beilinov has prepared a dissertation for his doctorate in technical sciences.

Lectures, sessions of scientific societies, meetings of the literary association, productions of new plays, conferences of readers who discuss the latest books—all these show what great progress has been made in “the provinces,” and how obsolete is the old concept about the contrast between the capital and the small town. . . .

Suppose we follow a worker and visit the places where he spends his leisure hours.

Dnieprodzerzhinsk stands on the bank of a river. The town’s people love their Dnieper and try to spend as much time as they can on the golden sand of the bank, or in the shade of the willow trees lining the stream.

Thousands of sun-tanned bathers are on the beaches. Swimmers are churning the water. Many of the town’s inhabitants have their own rowboats or motorboats. The river’s islands are swarming with people.

There is an aquatic sports station with swimming pools, a diving tower and a landing for boats. Here you can learn how to swim, dive or row, and the station gives tests at the end of its courses.

While elderly workers and their wives are drinking tea and having sandwiches, the young people are diving from the tower, holding swimming or rowing contests, or merely basking in the sun.

At the same hour, several thousand people are eagerly following a football match at the stadium of the metal workers.

There are twelve sports societies in the town. Workers and other employees of the iron and steel mill belong to the Stal (Steel) Sports Society; trade employees to the Burevestnik (Stormy Petrel) Society; building trades workers to the Stroitel (Builder) Society; workers of the nitrate fertilizer plant to the Khimik (Chemist) Society, etc. Each sports society has several



football teams. At the Dzerzhinsky Mill, in addition to the two general teams, there are football elevens in the pattern-making, machine, transport and electrical shops.

The Stal Sports Society holds first place in town. Its football eleven takes part in contests for championship of the Ukraine and it has sent as many as thirty-five members to defend its colors in all-Union rowing contests. The steel workers have quite a number of athletic victories to their credit. Two of their number, Chalenko and Nikityuk, won first place in the Ukraine for rowing.

But though Stal Sports Society holds the lead and has probably the largest number of fans, the other eleven societies are not short of rooters. Fans follow closely the training and the games of their favorite teams. Dnieprodzerzhinsk has more than 5,000 members of various sports societies. There are also some 6,500 people who, though not affiliated with any society, regularly engage in various forms of athletics or belong to physical culture circles in schools and offices. But, of course, both groups are greatly outnumbered by fans who fill the stadium, the aquatic sports station, gyms, sports grounds and halls where chess battles are fought. The people of Dnieprodzerzhinsk engage in about twenty different forms of athletics: gymnastics, track and field, basketball, football, rowing, rifle shooting, swimming, boxing, weightlifting, cycling, motorcycling, skiing, skating, hunting, etc.; and chess and checkers too have many followers.

When twilight envelops the town, and a breeze carries the damp air of the Dnieper into the city, the beaches gradually become deserted.

At this hour people flock to the parks.

The Summer Park of the car-building works is located right in the center of town. It is rather small—about twelve acres altogether—but it offers splendid facilities for a pleasant, restful evening. There is an open-air variety theater, a dancing pavilion,

a restaurant with a reputation for its fine food. Youth predominates at the outdoor dancing pavilion, and the strains of waltzes resound until late into the night.

The Park of Culture and Rest of the Dzerzhinsky Mill is located near Krasnoarmeiskaya Street. The management of the mill and the trade union committee devote a great deal of attention to the park, regarding it as the "rest department."

Tree-lined paths extend over many acres, and gardeners take good care of its six hundred varieties of trees and shrubs.

In the center of the park is the Summer Theater, seating seven hundred. Visiting companies frequently present productions on its boards, and Moscow and Kiev actors give recitals there. From time to time shows and concerts are put on by amateur art groups from local mills and factories, and the latest Soviet and foreign films are also shown.

Here again young people flock to the dancing pavilion; and school children have a whole section of their own, with facilities for many games. In the evening its younger visitors have gone home, but the older ones try their skill at climbing a pole or walking a beam, and enjoy a ride on the merry-go-round.

The pride of the park management is a parachute tower, the tallest in the Ukraine, where there is usually a waiting line of those who want to get the thrill of jumping with a parachute—even though it is open and securely fastened to the tower.

In reading pavilions the latest newspapers and magazines are available. In one of the several restaurants excellent meals are served. . . . A symphony orchestra plays in the open on a special stage. . . . So the visitor to the park has his choice of attending a show or concert, seeing a movie, dancing, reading, jumping from the parachute tower, or simply strolling along the shady paths.

In addition to its drama theater seating 800, Dnieprodzerzhinsk has two movie houses. They are called "Rodina" (Home-



land) and "Slava" (Glory). "Rodina" features the latest hits and at every showing its 840 seats are filled. "Slava" has morning and afternoon shows for children, but after seven o'clock children are no longer admitted.

Films, however, can be seen at other places besides the regular movie houses. Every workers' club has a motion picture projector, and the town has seven workers' clubs, one of which is rightly called the Palace of Culture. In this large white building is an auditorium, seating 1,200, where plays and concerts and the latest films are presented. There are frequent performances by amateur artists—workers of the steel mill or students of the institute and technical schools.

I saw two of these local groups in *Island of Peace* and *The Break*, both by Soviet playwrights, and was impressed by the skill of the amateurs. They showed profound understanding of the characters and portrayed them very ably.

Zabaluyev, a stage veteran, who is a member of the company of the drama theater and a deputy to the City Soviet, acts as consultant to the amateur theatrical groups. Lopatetsky, an employee of the mill, was the regisseur of both productions. Two members of his family, his wife and 19-year-old daughter, take part in the dramatic circle.

On this same stage I saw an interesting show put on by local talent and dealing with events at the mill and in the town. Local authors had written the texts for the sketches and songs, and there were roars of laughter when the actors poked fun at some overzealous administrator, whom everyone easily recognized as the object of the satire.

While a performance is on in the main auditorium of the Palace of Culture, rehearsals of other circles are in progress on the second floor. In one room a group of bandura players meets. (The bandura is a highly popular Ukrainian string instrument.) This fine ensemble and its melodious songs are very popular, and on two occasions it won a contest for amateur musicians and

had the honor of performing in Moscow. When the Ukraine celebrated its thirtieth anniversary as a Soviet republic, the Dnieprodzerzhinsk bandura players went to Kiev and performed at jubilee affairs.

No less popular is the dance group of the Palace of Culture, and the large children's song and dance ensemble. The fiery temperament and virtuosity of the performers and the magnificent colors of national costumes captivate the spectator who watches a Ukrainian dance. Breath-taking jumps alternating with slow dance rhythms, dashing figures changing into gliding movements, and expressive pantomime impart a feeling of abandon, gaiety and vitality.

Walking from room to room, you come upon a chorus, accordion players, a brass band, a group of women bent over fancy embroidery. . . . More than five hundred people are members of the various amateur art circles functioning at the Palace of Culture.

In a well-furnished guest room a group of worker-inventors of the mill is gathered. Tea is served, and then one of the leading engineers outlines the fields to which the creative initiative of the workers should be directed to achieve further improvements.

The Palace of Culture has a special "technical propaganda" office carrying exhibits on latest machinery, technology and production methods, where there is always a group of visitors carefully examining the various displays. Also on exhibit is a fine miniature model of the mill made by the workers themselves.

There is a large hall usually filled to capacity, where lectures are delivered on a wide range of subjects—international affairs, literature, history, ethics, the latest developments in science, history, engineering, etc. And another huge hall with shelves reaching to the ceiling contains the library of the Palace of Culture. What books mean to the workers of Dnieprodzerzhinsk was well described to me by Natalia Zabrichenko, director



of the library. She is typical of Soviet librarians to whom the job is not limited merely to handing out books or keeping them in order on the shelves; they feel their work has an important educational function, and they seek to guide the development of readers' tastes. While studying at the Moscow Library Institute, Zabrichenko eagerly looked forward to her future contact with worker audiences. Her work at the Palace of Culture has proved to her that there is no greater lover of the printed word than the "ordinary man." What attracts him in a book is not merely good style, interesting plot or stirring emotions, but profound and significant ideas. The heroes of books must (I deliberately use the word "must") come from the midst of the people and the writer must draw realistic portraits of them. The Soviet reader does not tolerate the least artificiality, the least departure from what is true to life.

Readers speak about this in forceful and impassioned terms at conferences sponsored by the library, for discussion of some latest work of fiction or an old favorite. Among the books taken up at recent readers' forums were *Cavalier of the Gold Star*, a post-war novel by S. Babayevsky; Gorky's *Mother*, and a novel dealing with the Russo-Japanese war of 1905, *Port Arthur*, by A. Stepanov.

The library has more than 4,000 subscribers, who can draw on a stock of nearly 23,000 volumes of *belles lettres*, and books on political, social and economic, historical and scientific subjects. Every evening readers borrow on the average 600 books.

The library of the Palace of Culture has 17 branches in clubrooms which function in apartment houses where the mill's personnel lives. There is also a delivery service through which subscribers can order a book in advance and have it brought to their homes.

Other clubs in the city have many of the same features as the Palace of Culture. Take the club of the car-building works. It also has a large hall, a library and a string of amateur art cir-

cles, including a fine dance ensemble. This group has the benefit of the expert advice of Berdovsky, leading member of the company of the Kiev Opera and Ballet Theater, who comes from time to time to Dnieprodzerzhinsk to guide the efforts of the lovers of choreography. The club also has its own chorus, drama, musical and acrobatic circles. . . .

You might drop in at the club of the cement mill, a doctors' club, the railwaymen's club, the electrical workers' club or the club of the deaf-mutes (there is such a club in Dnieperodzerzhinsk.) In each one you would find people enjoying their well-earned rest in a dozen different ways.

Only towards midnight does life come to a standstill in the town.

People return home from the theater, movies and clubs, or a friend's house where they have spent a pleasant evening.

Lights go out in the homes. And through the hushed town resound the Kremlin chimes which are being broadcast over the radio throughout the Soviet land.



## A CITY WITH A FUTURE

The time came to say good-bye to Dnieprodzerzhinsk. During my stay there I had grown fond of this town. I have relived it all once more while writing this book, which I now offer to the reader. And I hope the reader will become attached to this small Soviet town on the bank of the ancient Dnieper.

Whether the poplars and chestnut trees on its streets are clad in green or in snow, whether their bare branches nod in rhythm with the autumn winds or their buds presage early spring—Dnieprodzerzhinsk is equally dear to its people.

And not only because they have been born there, spent their childhood, married and settled down with their families. They cherish its present and also its future.

The present means to them the assurance of work, the certainty that a "rainy day" will never come, that a man will never find himself without any means of livelihood, that he will never know the privations and torments of unemployment.

The present means every opportunity for reaching the heights in science and engineering, since the doors of educational and scientific institutions are open to all. If you were a common laborer yesterday, today you may be foreman and tomorrow technician or engineer. You can be a physician, teacher, designer; work in any field you choose.

The present means that you and your family are assured of rest and leisure, a right guaranteed to everybody.

The present means freedom for each one to decide his own destiny and to help in shaping the destiny of his town and his

country. The present means unswerving faith in a still better future, to which the Soviet people are being led with confidence and wisdom by the great Bolshevik Party.

It was thanks to the Communist Party that the little mill settlement of Kamenskoye—where Belgian capitalists were the most prominent people and workingmen the most downtrodden and neglected—has become a thriving modern town.

The settlement of Kamenskoye was still controlled by a handful of shareholders of the South Russian Dnieper Joint-Stock Company where brutal exploitation of workers prevailed, Russia was still in the grip of the autocracy, when a small group of Bolsheviks called for struggle and foretold the inevitable victory of the workers' just cause.

More than thirty years ago capitalism was overthrown in Russia; the idea of emancipation of the working class from capitalist oppression, the idea of Socialism triumphed.

Kamenskoye had only one mill when the Soviet people undertook the spectacular Stalin five-year plans. It was then that the Communists of the town called on the workers to perform heroic feats of labor for the sake of the bright future of their country. The workers of the Soviet republic who were busy building up their own industry, breaking down the resistance of enemies within the country, paid no attention to the malicious predictions of failure by enemies abroad. Dnieprodzerzhinsk, which had but one small metallurgical mill, acquired a variety of large enterprises, and the old tiny peasant huts were replaced by blocks of modern homes.

The workers of Dnieprodzerzhinsk, like those of other towns, denied themselves many things in order to complete the five-year plans on time. They were led in this struggle by the Communists. The people followed them, and eventually began to reap the fruit of their all-out effort.

Then came the war. Stalin and the Communist Party headed the struggle of the Soviet people against the fascist invaders, and the people were victorious.



Communists in the small town of Dnieprodzerzhinsk stood firmly at their posts. During the dark days of occupation, the underground committee of the town's Party organization directed the activities of all patriots, both Communist and non-Party people.

Today the people have once again resumed their creative peaceful work. Factories are being completely restored. In 1950 our industry and agriculture will pass the pre-war level and many shops of Dnieprodzerzhinsk factories have already fulfilled this task considerably ahead of time.

A bright and joyful future opens before the inhabitants of Dnieprodzerzhinsk. Their standard of living will further improve, their town will expand, will acquire more greenery and become more beautiful.

The town's future is described in a thick volume called *General Plan for the Extension of the City of Dnieprodzerzhinsk*. It was compiled before the war, but the battles against the German invaders prevented its realization. Now it has been taken out of the safe, and architects, builders and engineers are revising it, keeping in mind the growing demands of the population.

The city will spread out to the more healthful zone on the hills, away from the factories. A green protective belt of more than fifteen hundred acres will separate the industrial plants from the residential sections.

A huge new Park of Culture and Rest will begin at the town and run to the Dnieper. It will have a large stadium and playgrounds.

Many new homes will arise in the town, including blocks of three- and four-story apartment houses, as well as clusters of two-story homes and cottages. All homes in Dnieprodzerzhinsk will have gas and running hot water, as well as electricity.

Gardens and parks will be laid out around the cottages, which will be built by factories and sold on long-term credits to workers and the engineering personnel.

Sixteen new schools accommodating 14,500 pupils will be built, and a hospital and two maternity homes outfitted with all the latest medical equipment.

Another music school will be established. Thousands of youngsters will fill the auditoriums and playrooms of the Young Pioneers' Club, which will have its own cinema, technical hobby center and a large gym.

A building 15,000 cubic meters in area will be erected for the Central Public Library.

New sanatoria to accommodate thousands of Dnieprodzerzhinsk inhabitants will appear in the vicinity of the town.

Labor at the factories will be still further mechanized and, consequently, will become incomparably lighter.

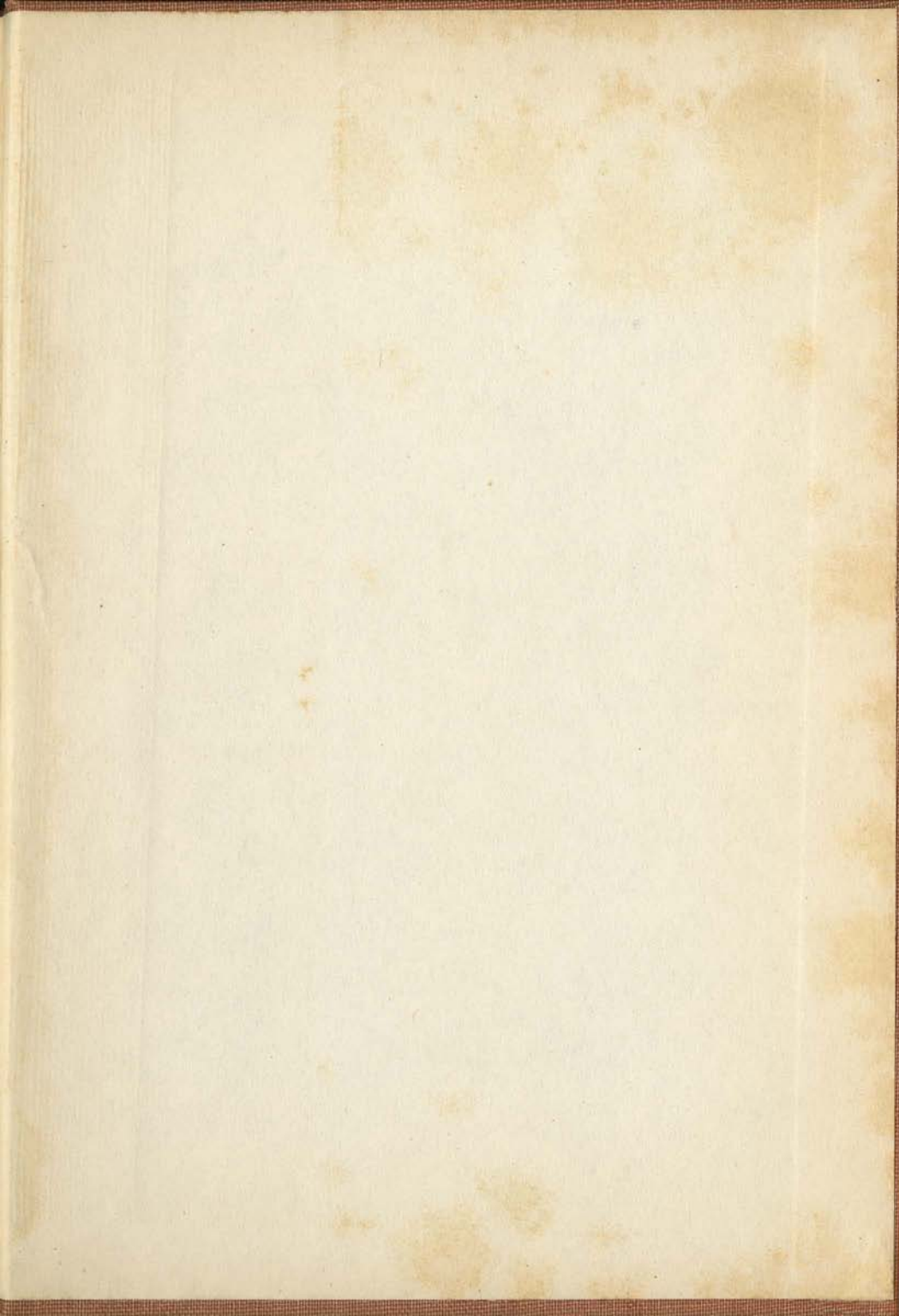
These are matters of the near future, as envisaged in the *General Plan for the Extension of the Town of Dnieprodzerzhinsk*. And plans in the Soviet Union always become reality. As Comrade Stalin has said, "What makes our production plans real is the millions of working people who are creating a new life. What makes our plans real is the living people, it is you and I, our will to work, our readiness to work in the new way, our determination to carry out the plans."

And when Dnieprodzerzhinsk assumes the appearance blue-printed in the general plan for its extension, the reader will have every right to say:

"This book, it seems, is out of date. Dnieprodzerzhinsk can no longer be called a small Soviet town. It is a large, modern industrial center of the Soviet Union."

The author will not feel sorry that his book has fallen behind the times so soon. Together with the readers, wellwishers of the country of Socialism, he will rejoice in the fact that life is moving forward, that Soviet people are confidently advancing to Communism.





*Joseph Garellick*

**A SOVIET CITY AND ITS PEOPLE**

*International*